CANNOCK
CHRONICLE

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Bird's the word

Lillian, 95, recognised for her volunteer work

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Rugby playing hunks bare all for calendar

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Hednesford celebrate after penalty winner over United

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HOSPITAL SERVICES COULD BE STRIPPED

by Mark Mudie

MORE THAN 100 residents packed into an emotionally-charged meeting to discuss the futures of Stafford and Cannock Chase hospitals.

The board of Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust turned out in force to face the public at the Kingston Centre in Stafford on Monday night, fronted by chief executive Lyn Hill-Tout and chairman John Caldwell.

The agenda and tone of the meeting was shaped by the earlier announcement that a team of independent experts had ruled the trust was not viable in the long-term.

Health trust future thrown into jeopardy

THE board of directors which runs Stafford Hospital is facing suspension under the most severe sanctions that could be imposed by health watchdog Monitor.

The news was revealed just hours after a team of independent experts ruled the trust that runs both Stafford and Cannock Chase hospitals was not viable in the long-term.

The future of Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust has been thrown into doubt by the announcement by Monitor. Chief executive Lyn Hill-Tout told a packed public meeting on Monday that control of the trust could pass to "the equivalent of a receiver" appointed when a firm fails.

Changes

Bringing in a special administrator to oversee a radical restructuring of services provided by the trust is one of two options. The other option is allowing the trust board to oversee the changes.

Mrs Hill-Tout told of her "great disappointment" at the experts' preliminary findings, but said she accepted their verdict. "When a private firm fails, it goes into receivership," she said. "Monitor might decide the trust is fit to continue and look after restructuring itself, or it could decide the trust cannot sort itself out. If it is the latter, Monitor would appoint a trust special administrator, who would act like a receiver.

"The practical implications of this are the board would be suspended, and the governors would no longer be in place either."

The team believes only "significant financial support" will enable the trust to operate for the next five years. It means services are likely to be stripped from Stafford and Cannock and provided at other Midland hospitals.

Improvements in care standards were singled out for praise but health watchdog Monitor, which commissioned the experts' investigation, acknowledged it was a "difficult time" for patients and staff.

In a letter to Mr Caldwell, Monitor chief executive David Bennett warned Mid Staffs could be placed in special administration, taking its running out of board control.

Steve Kirby, who is leading the team of experts who released interim findings through Monitor, said the level of cuts needed to balance the books would endanger patient safety.

The Department of Health has committed millions of pounds in each of the last two years to keep services running.

Savings

Mr Kirby said: "We are talking about nine or 10 per cent savings which would need to be made every year for the next four or five years. No trust has ever attempted to cut so much over that sort of period.

"Where trusts have tried to cut big sums the quality of service and patient safety has suffered. I'm sure that's not what anyone in this room would countenance."

The second half of the two-hour meeting was devoted to a question and answer session, during which Mrs Hill-Tout admitted the reopening of A&E round-the-clock was subject to the ongoing review.

Mother of four Cheryl Porter, from the Support Stafford Hospital pressure group, blamed the trust's problems on a lack of support from GPs.

"It is down to the GPs to sell Stafford Hospital and they are not doing that in their surgeries," she said.

Georgia is 12 on 12/12/12

Birthday girl Georgia Keeling with sister Jodie Keeling, aged 10 and brother Alex four

A CHESLYN Hay schoolgirl celebrated her 12th birthday on the milestone date of 12/12/12.

It was the last time this century that the date, month and year all matched and registry officers reported an increase in wedding bookings as couple rushed to tie the knot , especially at midday.

It was also an extra special day for Georgia Keeling. Her mother Louise, a healthcare assistant of Coppice Lane, said: "This birthday really is a one-off. Georgia was supposed to arrive about a month later but I kept saying I know she's going to come before Christmas and she did."

Georgia celebrated her birthday with a family trip to Blackpool at the weekend, accompanied by her mother, father Shaun, sister Jodie, aged 10, and four-year-old brother Alex.

She was even presented with a special cake emblazoned with the date 12/12/12.

Accused: I wasn't at scene of killing

THE MAN accused of driving the getaway car for Richard Deakin's killer told a court he has never been to the town of the murder.

Darryl Dickens told a jury that between 8am and 9.30am on the morning of Mr Deakin's murder, he was at the business he managed – AD Skip Hire in Bilston – and was nowhere near the crime scene in Burntwood.

Dickens, 34, told Birmingham crown court he then drove to West Bromwich magistrates' for a trial relating to alleged motoring offences – a claim his solicitor backed up, saying she met him at 10am.

Mr Deakin was shot in bed at his Meadway Street, Chasetown home just after 8.30am on July 5, 2010.

Records

Prosecutor Mr Michael Burrows said it would have been possible to drive from Chasetown to AD Skip Hire for 9.30am, when records show Dickens received a call, before driving to West Bromwich.

"I wouldn't know – I've never been to Burntwood," Dickens said. Dickens, of Powell Place, Bilston, denies murder along with co-accused David Harrison, 63, of Rainbow Street, Bilston.

Dickens denied knowing that Harrison lived just a few hundred yards away from AD Skip Hire, despite knowing him for eight years.

The trial continues.

Concert will help hungry

YOUNG talents are rehearsing for a charity concert to help feed the hungry.

Singing For Their Supper is being performed at The Prince of Wales Centre, in Cannock on March 19.

Profits will go to children's charities NSPCC and Save the Children.

The show is being organised through Melanie's Fund – formerly the Melanie Till Memorial Fund.

Founder Bryan Till said: "There will be something for everyone."

Choirs in tune to help cut out crime

STREET choirs will give performances with a difference in both Cannock and Rugeley town centres this weekend in a bid to crackdown on booze-fuelled bad behaviour.

The It's Never OK campaign will tackle alcohol-related trouble and domestic violence over Christmas and New Year.

Part of it will see singing flashmobs, or spontaneous singing crowds, perform festive material to create a peaceful atmosphere.

It will be launched in Rugeley tomorrow (Friday) and Cannock on Saturday. The campaign was first launched last year and was credited with reducing alcohol-related violence by almost a quarter and cases of domestic violence by more than a third. Staffordshire Women's Aid received a 59 per cent increase in calls.

Scheme

Staffordshire Police, Cannock Chase Council, Staffordshire Women's Aid, the fire service and members of the PubWatch scheme will all join forces for the campaign.

The crackdown is split into two parts made up of Violent Night covering alcohol themes and Season's Beatings for domestic violence issues.

Police will patrol town centres to offer reassurance and deal with any trouble.

Festive fair fundraiser

BUSINESSES have clubbed together to support a festive fair organised by a Bridgtown salon owner.

Marie Hayden, of Florida Sun, in North Street, has organised Sunday's Christmas bazaar in aid of Balls to Cancer. It takes place from noon to 4pm at St Mary's Community Centre, Hunter Road, Cannock.

Items include a bottle and toy tombola and guess the weight of the cake To donate, call 01543 897491.

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Calendar Girls bare all in fundraiser

Ladies at Riverside House bare all to raise cash

'CALENDAR Girls' from a supported living scheme in Penkridge have lost their inhibitions, as well as their clothes, to raise cash for two cancer charities.

Eleven ladies from Riverside House, aged from 57 to 92, stepped in front of the camera to pose, without clothes, for a charity calendar in aid of Macmillan Cancer and Breast Cancer Care. The ladies chose themes for each month of the year ranging from 'May Day Queen' to 'Miss Valentine'.

The residents came up with the idea with the help of their supported living co-ordinator Debbie Brownlie. She said: "All the ladies have given their all to making the calendar a success. We regularly hold fundraising events but this is by far the most exciting activity we've done."

Miss July, Rene Clayton, aged 80, said: "We wanted to show people that age doesn't stop you from having fun. We loved having the photos taken, it was like going back to our youth!"

Calendars are available for a suggested £8 donation at Housing Plus, Acton Court, Stafford, or by calling 01785 312312.

Police retirement plan axed by commissioner

STAFFORDSHIRE'S new Police and Crime Commissioner has overturned a controversial policy that forces officers with 30 years' experience to retire.

Matthew Ellis has also ended a three-year recruitment freeze for new police officers.

He said his decision to start bringing in new recruits for the first time since February 2010 would help drive down crime.

Mr Ellis also said scrapping Regulation A19, which has seen in the region of 150 Staffordshire officers forced to retire since the beginning of last year, would allow the force to hold on to its most experienced and talented officers.

They are the new commissioner's first major decisions in his first two weeks as the man responsible for overseeing the force's budget.

Talent

Mr Ellis said: "Staffordshire Police has lost a lot of valuable experience since the A19 policy was introduced and has not been able to bring in new blood for even longer.

"I've got ambitious plans for the next three years so I am determined to keep the best talent within the force.

"This hasn't been an easy decision but it is the right decision for the police service in Staffordshire so that we can continue to drive down crime."

Staffordshire Police introduced a recruitment freeze in February 2010 and brought in Regulation A19 the following year. The measures were brought in as part of the force's bid to make £34m of savings by 2015.

Mr Ellis added: "During the next three years I want people across all of Staffordshire to see the positive difference that the role of Police and Crime Commissioner will make."

Card sharp pupil wins competition

Katie Thompson's card

A CHRISTMAS card designed by a Rugeley schoolgirl will be printed and used by the Hawkesyard Estate during this festive period.

Katie Thompson's snowman and reindeer design was selected by Sir Charles and Lady Wolseley as the estate's official Christmas card.

Youngsters at Etching Hall Primary School were asked to create cards and the Year 4 pupil was the overall winner, receiving an art set.

An estate spokesman said: "The standard was very high and Sir Charles and Lady Wolseley had a tough task to pick the winning design."

Runners-up were Grace Goring and Jessica Bennett. All entrants received a certificate.

Artist's work goes on display

Robert Bridgstock, whose work is on display at Chasewater Innovation Centre

DOZENS of oil paintings and prints have gone on display at the Chasewater Innovation Centre.

The 36 pieces of artwork features landscapes and animals created over the last six years by Robert Bridgstock, a 66-year-old grandfather from Brereton.

They exhibition runs until the end of the month and are up for sale, priced from £10 to £320. Mr Bridgstock, of Coalpit Mews, a retired graphic designer and self-taught artist, said: "I take my own photos and paint from them.

"They are mainly paintings of landscapes but there are also pictures of deer and there's a nice one of a fox coming out from the darkness. They are an accumulation of work I have done over some years.

Teams in memorial game for secretary

TWO crown green bowls teams – including one from Cheslyn Hay – held a charity doubles competition to raise funds for St Giles Walsall Hospice in memory of a former club secretary.

Short Heath Liberal and M&B Cheslyn Hay bowls club held the event in memory of former Short Heath club secretary Ann Turner, who received care at St Giles Walsall Hospice, in Goscote Lane, last year.

The Ann's Angels Competition and Fun Day was organised by Paul Evans and Karen Kitson from M&B Cheslyn Hay along with Mrs Turner's husband Mick.

Boosted

A total of £556 was raised and this was boosted by a £500 donation from Mr Evans' employer Legal & General.

Tim Allen, team captain of Short Heath Liberal, said: "The level of care that Ann was given by the staff at the hospice was remarkable, so it was heart-warming to see so many of her friends and family come together to raise money in her memory."

Since her death, Mrs Turner's family and friends have raised more than £10,000 for the hospice.

Youngsters taking reins

CHILDREN from Walsall Wood have been given the chance to try horse riding lessons in Burntwood.

Funding from Sport England has helped pay for the lessons at Gartmore Riding School.

Some 24 children enjoyed a six-week programme to learn to ride and care for horses.

Call Tracey Francis on 01543 686117 about future sessions. Clubs looking for Sportivate funding for 14 to 25-year-olds can call Stuart Webb at Walsall Council on 01922 658080.

It's messy time

A HEDNESFORD church is having a Messy Christmas on Sunday, December 16. The two-hour session gets under way at 3pm at Trinity Church, Station Road, and will feature crafts, stories, songs and food. Messy Church is once a month at Trinity. Call Carol 01543 877787 or Wendy 01543 425434 for more.

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Growing firm on the move

A £4.8 million cash injection has allowed a flourishing firm to relocate to its home town of Brownhills .

Offshore Stainless Supplies Ltd, which was set up in 1999, has moved from Great Wyrley to a site almost double the size in Lichfield Road.

The move comes after the firm receiving funding from commercial finance providers GE Capital.

Bosses say the financial backing will help expand the metal stockholding company, which has spent £1.5m on new machinery in the past year. The firm was initially based at Maybrook Industrial Estate in Brownhills, before moving to Loades Business Park in Great Wyrley six years later.

The company employs 30 staff and is a stockholder, distributor and processor of specialist stainless steel to the offshore oil and gas, marine, transportation and automotive industries.

Managing director Chris Joyce said: "We outgrew our 28,000 sq ft unit in Great Wyrley and have purchased a 50,000 sq ft unit."

Mr Joyce, aged 47, said he hoped the firm's expansion plans would boost turnover from £14m and create six more jobs next year.

Rallying cry on business

CHASE business leaders issued a rallying cry for those struggling to find work to think about self-employment.

Chase Chamber spokesman Chris Plant said: "At a time when businesses are cautious about recruitment and have a large pool of unemployed people to pick from, those struggling to find jobs should consider setting up in business themselves," he said.

"We need to continue to keep the region's reputation for manufacturing."

For advice on starting a business contact the Chamber on 08450 710191or at info@chase-chamber.com

Pub quiz night

A RUGELEY pub and restaurant is hosting a Christmas quiz night to raise cash for charity. The quiz, at The Plum Pudding in Rugeley Road, Armitage, will be on Sunday, December 23 at 7.30pm. Cash raised will go to the Make a Difference Foundation.

Councillor Bob Todd and consort Councillor Diane Todd with Steve Maitland from The Buble Tribute Band: *Photo by Sarah Giles of www.connectcannock.co.uk*

Chairman's charities quids in after night with 'Buble'

THE chairman of Cannock Chase Council raised more than £600 for Cancer Research UK and Mencap at a fundraising party featuring a Michael Buble tribute act.

Councillor Bob Todd held A Night With Michael Buble on November 30 at the Civic Centre ballroom in Cannock. It featured The Buble Tribute Band, a disco and a charity raffle.

Local businesses donated prizes including a 32-inch flat-screen TV, an Eden Day Spa voucher, a three-course meal for two at the Moat House in Acton Trussell and dinner, bed and breakfast at the Mercure Hatherton House Hotel in Penkridge. The final fundraising total will be known soon.

Councillor Todd said: "It was a wonderful night and I'd like to say a big thank you to everyone who came along.

"Both charities do such fantastic work and I wanted to raise as much money as I possibly can for them."

One in five county residents has no formal qualifications

MORE than 22,000 people in Cannock Chase are living without any formal qualifications, according to Government figures.

The figures, taken from the 2011 Census, showed that in Staffordshire as a whole, 20 per cent of residents, one in five, had no formal qualifications.

by Shaun Jepson

The West Midlands had the highest number of people aged 16 and over in the country with no recognised qualification at 27 per cent.

In total, 848,489 lived in Staffordshire when the survey was conducted. Of those, 172,976 had no formal qualification. The figure for Cannock Chase was 22,278, in Lichfield it was 18,622 and 21,699 in South Staffordshire.

Surveyed

It has also emerged that there were thousands of lone parents living across the county and that 35 per cent of people described their health as "very good" when surveyed.

The figures from the Office of National Statistics revealed that 93.1 per cent of people living in Staffordshire were born in England, with 2.5 per cent born in other countries.

There were 20,871 single parents in Staffordshire at the time of the survey, 18,595 female and 2,276 male.

Of those, 2,649 live in Cannock Chase, 2,004 in Lichfield and 2,245 in South Staffordshire.

They also show that 41 per cent of Staffordshire residents have access to a car or van, with 355,262 of the 848,489 people in the county having access to a vehicle.

Nationally, the figures showed that the population of England and Wales has grown more secular and increasingly ethnically diverse over the last decade.

Foreign-born people now make up 13 per cent of the population in England and Wales, rising from 4.6 million in 2001, or 9 per cent of the population, to 7.5 million last year. Just over half of the foreign-born population, or 3.8 million, arrived in the last 10 years.

The top five religions in the West Midlands were Christian, 60.2 per cent; Muslim, 6.7 per cent Sikh, 2.4 per cent; Hindu, 1.3 per cent and Buddhist, 0.3 per cent. The region had the highest number of Sikhs in England and Wales.

Organist concert date

FORMER Blackpool Tower Ballroom organist Nicholas Martin will be special guest at Burntwood Music For All Group next week.

He will be performing at Burntwood Memorial Hall, in Rugeley Road, from 7.30pm on Thursday, December 20. The concert will include plenty of seasonal offerings. Tickets are £6 on the door and include a complimentary mince pie and sausage rolls. More details are available from CMP Promotions on 01530 274270.

Practice manager Jackie Murphy at Chase Eyecare in High Green, Cannock, which is acting as a drop-off point for donations to the Cannock and District Food Bank

Opticians in plea on foodbank donation

AN opticians is spreading some festive cheer to those in need by supporting a new foodbank scheme through a shoebox appeal.

Chase Eyecare, which has a branch in High Green, Cannock and Market Street, Hednesford, is urging people to bring shoeboxes into the practice full of non-perishable foods.

Staff will then donate the shoeboxes to the new Cannock and District foodbank scheme, which is run by the Trussell Trust in partnership with the Pye Green Christian Centre.

Excellent

Chase Eyecare practice manager Jackie Murphy said: "There isn't a better time than at Christmas to do something to really help someone and we thought this was an excellent cause.

"We would urge people to support us by bringing in shoeboxes. "

Clinical director Shakeel Puri added: "We wanted to do something for the community at Christmas and thought the new foodbank scheme was a great idea."

The foodbank scheme sees those in need collect food vouchers which then be exchanged for three days supply of emergency food.

NEWS in brief

Football match in pals' memory

A MEMORIAL football game is being played to raise money in memory of two young Great Wyrley friends who died of cancer.

Lucy Kowal and Amritpal Dosanjh lost their fight earlier this year and friends decided to raise money for the families to put towards charities of their choice.

Players have already donated £10 each to take part in the match, which kicks off at 1pm on December 23 at Hawkins Sports & Social Club, in Coppice Lane. Tickets are £2.

Close friend of Amrit and match organise Martin Garbett said: "Having seen what's gone on over this year it's made me realise how lucky we all are and felt we had to do something."

For more information visit www.facebook.com and search Amritpal Dosanjh and Lucy Kowal Memorial Football Game.

Fair raises funds for wildlife centre

A FUNDRAISING fair made more than £450 for a wildlife rescue centre. The Gentleshaw Wildlife Centre supports wild injured birds of prey as well as unwanted or mistreated birds, reptiles and exotic animals and has been running for 19 years.

It was given the much-needed shot in the arm thanks to a Christmas fair, organised by Hednesford businesswoman Jill Bonney of Purpleuna.

The total amount raised was £455.60.

Police probe raid attempt at garage

POLICE have appealed for information following a burglary at a service station.

Offenders forced their way into Muckley Corner Service Station, near Hammerwich between 1am and 4.30am on Tuesday, but fled empty handed after being disturbed.

An investigation has been launched and CCTV footage is being reviewed.

Anyone with information is asked to call DC Martin Wildes at Staffordshire Police on 101.

Poppet in store

TESCO'S new store in Hednesford caused a stir among younger shoppers when a character from a popular online children's game visited. Moshi Monster character Poppet was at the Tesco store, in the Victoria Shopping Park.

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

THANKS for the suggestion but William and Kate are not going to call the kid Josey Wales.

❐❐❐❐❐❐❐

AND now a few words on the health benefits of being a lardarse: "If she (Kate) wasn't so damn skinny she'd have a bit of fat to cope with the weight loss and dehydration. She doesn't, hence the need to hospitalise her as her thinness increases her risk factor." (From Sky News website, where all opinions are equally valid).

❐❐❐❐❐❐❐

REJOICE, for the law will be changed to prevent females being discriminated against in the succession to the British Crown. Whatever sex it happens to be, William and Kate's baby will one day be monarch, because it will be the oldest of their children. Is that fair? By automatically crowning the oldest kid, we are swapping one form of discrimination (sexism) for another (ageism). Why should the second or third child not be monarch? How dare the system deny them the top job just because, by an accident of history, they are younger? If my argument strikes you as nonsense today, bear in mind that the very idea of sexually-equal succession would have seemed treason, or even heresy, only 50 years ago. William and Kate's child is unlikely to take the throne for another half-century and you can bet your life that our views and values that seem so reasonable to us in 2012 will seem bonkers to our great-great grandchildren.

❐❐❐❐❐❐❐

ACTUALLY, the best and most traditional way to choose the monarch is for the rival claimants to assemble about 20,000 terrified peasants each on a bit of open ground (Edgehill, Towton, etc) and command them to bash each other's brains out. Winner takes all.

❐❐❐❐❐❐❐

A READER writes: "If journalists are instructed to support one political group over another, is that freedom of the Press or a form of journalistic dictatorship?"

Actually, it is freedom of the Press. It is the freedom of any editor or proprietor to support any political party they choose. The journalist is free to work for any newspaper he likes. The readers are free to buy newspapers that reflect their politics.

Many British newspapers, both national and regional, were born out of political activism and the desire to change the world. That is why we have such a rich and varied Press. Television broadcasters are bound by law to be politically balanced, and are overseen by Ofcom. Newspapers are free of such rules but we have plenty of enemies who would relish the Press being brought under Ofcom's control.

"Political balance" has a sweet, reasonable ring but it is the antithesis of a free Press. And if we went down that road, with every column inch analysed for political bias and balance, Britain would only need one newspaper. We could call it Truth or as they say in Russia, Pravda.

❐❐❐❐❐❐❐

A SURVEY reveals that more that two-thirds of workers are embarrassed by their jobs and lie to make them sound more interesting. I had a pal who got a job putting up "for sale" signs for an estate agent. He called himself an information technologist.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Marathon man nears end of challenge

A TEACHER from Cannock Chase High school is preparing to run his 12th marathon this year after recently recovering from testicular cancer.

Lee Rickards, aged 33, from Tamworth, teaches PE at the Hednesford Road school, but has also been heavily involved in running for the past eight years at his club Peel Road Runners.

That was until he was diagnosed at the end of last year with testicular cancer just before he was about to take part in the Liverbird run in Liverpool.

Following a successful surgery to remove the cancer at the start of this year, Mr Rickards decided to plan out 12 marathons in 12 months and enlisted the help of three friends from his club and partner Rachel Thompson, 33.

He decided the only charity he could run for was the one that had completed research that had helped him with his recovery, Everyman Male Cancer Campaign.

Setbacks

Initially he set himself a target to raise £1,200 which to date he has more than doubled through the help of friends, family and students.

He said: "People have been so generous and supportive with what I am doing." However, he did face setbacks.

His first marathon, nine days after his surgery, was completed in six hours by walking and jogging.

During the London Marathon a knee injured flared up, forcing him to miss his next month's run.

He ended up running two marathons in a month to meet his promise that he made to himself and those who have supported him.

On December 23 Mr Rickards and his companions will run their final marathon, the Portsmouth Coastal Run. "I am looking forward to finishing it so I can relax for a while," said Mr Rickard.

If you would like to make a donation to Mr Rickard's cause please go to www.justgiving.com/leeandrach12in12

Marathon man Lee Rickards

Lillian, 95, is honoured for her volunteer work

A 95-YEAR-OLD woman from Rugeley was one of a number of volunteers to be honoured for her work with charity Age UK South Staffordshire.

Lillian Bird has been working with the charity for 12 years, having left her job as a café manager in her 60s after her husband died.

by Will Ackermann

She began as a 'befriender', visiting people who live alone in their homes, and now offers the same companionship over the telephone.

Each of the volunteers was given a framed certificate and an Age UK Life Loop brooch at an awards ceremony in St Mary's Church, Cannock.

Among them were Margaret Seed and Maureen Milward, both aged 70.

Both have been volunteering at Cannock Hospital, through Age UK, for the past five years.

Ms Seed said: "I get a real sense of satisfaction.

"It makes me appreciate my life every day more and I feel I have made a difference to the lives of many people."

Helping

The judges also recognised 61-year-old Gillian Worrall Arnold for her work at the hospital.

For more than five years she has been helping with administration at the Penkridge office and training hospital hairdressers.

Veteran volunteer John Richmond was honoured for his 12 years of service to Penkridge and Cannock as a befriender.

The former footballer, who once played alongside the legendary England winger Sir Stanley Matthews, regularly visits a blind lady in the area.

Doreen Siddons, aged 79, from Penkridge, also picked up an award.

She has been a befriender with the charity since 2002 and also volunteers at her local church.

Also from Penkridge, Pauline Sexty, aged 73, has been a befriender since 2006, having previously run a market stall.

She said she had been inspired by her mother's own befriender.

Judges recognised former primary school teacher Jean Langston, aged 68, from Cannock, for her six years work with the ward support and befriending service.

And Margaret Finch, who until July led the grandparent and toddler group at St Luke's Church in Cannock, was commended for her five years volunteering with children.

Next up at the awards, which were held on November 30, was Shirley Navin, who has worked in ward support and as a befriender since 2006.

She also helps at her church's mother and toddler group and has sat on the Rugeley Committee for McMillan Cancer Support.

And last but not least came Burntwood resident Shirley Rudkin, aged 79.

For eight years she has been leading walks in and around Burntwood, Chasetown, Chasewater and Cannock.

'Befriender' Lillian Bird, of Rugeley, who has been honoured for her work aged 95

Cash set aside for an influx of pupils

THOUSANDS of extra primary school places need to be created in Staffordshire in the next two years because of a continuing baby boom in the county.

Pupil rolls are expected to swell by 5,000 by 2014/15. Council bosses are now planning to set aside £500,000 to allow schools to create extra classes. Schools will be able to apply for a slice of the funding.

Council leader Councillor Philip Atkins said: "The bottom line is we have to plan ahead as there is such a short timeline between an increase in births and extra school places being needed.

"There has been an increase in births this year and we are told there will be next year. When birth rates go up we have a maximum of four to five years to prepare for the inevitability of those children reaching school age."

A report on the situation will be presented to headteachers and governors at the Staffordshire Schools' Forum next week.

Hundreds of school places are eventually expected to be provided by a new school in Stafford, which will open in 2015/16 and will cater for soldiers' families.

Appeal over foster carers

AN appeal for foster families has been launched by Staffordshire County Council, as it emerged 78 youngsters, aged from eight to 17, are waiting for homes.

Suitable carers need to have experience of working with or caring for children with challenging emotional and behavioural needs.

Practical and financial support will be offered by the county council.

Cabinet member for children's wellbeing Mike Lawrence said: "Fostering can be challenging but also immensely rewarding."

Anyone interested can visit **www.staffordshire.gov.uk/changealife**

M-way accident

RUSH-HOUR motorists were stuck in two-mile tailbacks after an accident on the M6 involving five vehicles. The collision happened, at about 5.30pm last Friday (December 7) between Junction 11a, and Junction 12 at Gailey.

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Marketing agency's workforce is boosted

A MARKETING agency has strengthened its team with two new members of staff.

The Marketing Room, in Cannock, has boosted its workforce with the appointment of former Compton Hospice fundraiser Katie Love and social media apprentice Terri-Anne Whitehouse.

Katie plays a key role in managing marketing and PR activity for the company's leisure, tourism and charity sector clients. Terri-Anne works across different sectors, helping maximise the impact of campaigns.

Marketing Room managing director Carol Garrington said: "Having Katie and Terri-Anne with us has been brilliant for the team and our clients.

Exciting

"Their energy and knowledge of different industry sectors and cutting edge social media platforms brings with it exciting opportunities."

The Marketing Room was formed last year when editorial agency Passionate Media joined forces with Black Country designer Julie Metcalfe of Aqueous Graphics.

During the past year, the Marketing Room has moved premises, changed its name and rebranded.

New services offered include video, photography, app technology for business and blogger outreach.

Charity shop opens again

A CHARITY shop in Heath Hayes has re-opened after it temporarily closed and relocated.

International Aid Trust on Hednesford Road moved from its previous premises on the same road in October but is now open for business.

Area co-ordinator Alison Cardy said: "We have been working so hard to get the shop ready and a lot of people have been asking us when we are opening.

"It's nice to be back in Heath Hayes again."

Free meal treat

THOSE on their own in Rugeley this festive period have been invited to a free Christmas meal. Residents living on their own can enjoy the free meal on Boxing Day at Victory Christian Centre in Anson Street, Rugeley. To book call 01889 576246.

£70,000 unit helps joint-condition sufferers

Consultant sonographer Alison Hall and patients Nikki Ingram, of Cannock, and Philip McHugh, of Hednesford, with the new scanner

CANNOCK Chase Hospital has opened a £70,000 department for people suffering with joint conditions.

The Musculo-skeletal Ultrasound Department has moved into bigger premises within the building to meet increasing demand for its services.

It now takes up three clinical rooms rather than one, complete with scanners, a large reception area and a waiting room with a plasma screen television.

It is the first dedicated unit of its kind in the country and will be used to diagnose arthritis, rheumatism and other joint conditions using ultrasound technology. Consultant rheumatologist Dr Tom Sheeran said: "We are less reliant on X-rays for diagnosis and are better than MRI in the assessment of inflammation in a functional peripheral joint.

"This is because in a MRI scanner you have to keep still, while under ultrasound movement is seen and thus is often more clinically useful.

Active

"We have trained staff to perform complex injection therapies under ultrasound control. This service also helps to assess treatments in patients with inflammatory arthritis. We have an active research program and are involved with a number of projects with patients with arthritis.

He added: "Moves like this do not take place without a lot of hard work and commitment from staff.

"It is great that the service is so successful that it had to expand, and that the local community in Cannock has such a fantastic service on its doorstep.

"It clearly signals the trust's commitment to Cannock Chase Hospital."

The department was officially opened by the trust's deputy chairman, Dennis Heywood, on November 28.

Parking scheme to run at a loss for 'foreseeable future'

MORE than 2,800 parking fines were handed out to drivers in Cannock in six months, raking in £75,000, according to new figures.

But a drop in the number of tickets by 605 on last year means the district council will not hit its financial targets or make a profit "for the foreseeable future".

The figures, revealed this week, show a total of 2,846 parking tickets were issued between April 1 and September 30 this year, amounting to £75,270. But 571 of these – 20 per cent – were subsequently cancelled.

A report from the district council to parking chiefs at the county council reveals the money raised through enforcement is lower than set out in the financial plan.

The report says: "Current predictions do not suggest the Cannock Chase District Council civil parking enforcement budget will result in the generation of a surplus for the foreseeable future without additional measures."

Safety

But Janos Toth, deputy leader of Cannock Chase Council, said the safety of drivers and pedestrians was of paramount importance.

"As far as I'm concerned the main thing that drives ticketing is to keep the roads safe and if people in the Cannock Chase area are parking better then I welcome that," he said. "It's not about income.

"We can't run at a loss for a long period of time so additional measures may have to be looked at."

He said figures would have to be collected over a longer period of time, at least a year, to give a fuller picture of the situation.

Of the 2,846 tickets issued, 1,672 were for on-street offences and 1,174 for off-street.

Memories and mince pies mark 150 years

HEALTH visitors are gathering in Norton Canes today (Thursday) for an afternoon of mince pies and memories.

The event at the community centre in Brownhills Road, is being held to mark the 150th year since health visits began. Professionals from the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Partnership NHS Trust, the organisation delivering community health and social care services across the county, will gather from 3.30pm.

The afternoon has been organised by the Cannock team where health visitors will share memorabilia and watch a DVD of archived footage from past decades of the health visiting service.

"Health visitors play a crucial role in supporting young children and their families but many people may not realise how long the service has been around," said Cannock team leader Janine McKnight.

Health visitors are qualified and registered nurses or midwives who undertake further post-registration training. The service works with families of children from birth to five-years-old.

Students warned over binge drinking

Front, from left, South Staffordshire College students Sophie Gisbourne and Ellie Raybould and, back, centre Paige Drakeford are given advice on binge drinking by Trish Harry and Sindy Parkash from Minster Pharmacy

HEALTH advisers from Minster pharmacies met with students and staff at South Staffordshire College to raise awareness of binge drinking during the Christmas season.

The informative yet fun talks and activities were designed to give students at the Crown House campus, Cannock the experience of being drunk thanks to a special pair of 'beer goggles. Pupils wearing them attempted to carry out simple tasks such as walking along a line, throwing a ball into a bucket and bowling down skittles, all made harder by the eyewear that replicates the feeling of drinking around eight pints.

Faces

Manager, Minster Pharmacy, part of The Midcounties Co-operative, Sindy Parkash said:"It went really well.

"It was really good fun to watch, but their faces completely changed when I talked about the dangers, it shows they really took it seriously."

Staff also got involved with the students, both of whom were asked to fill a glass with what they thought was a unit of alcohol.

"A lot of them got it right but some of them were quite off," Mrs Parkash added.

NEWS in brief

Trainees hoping to make the cut

A HUSBAND and wife have taken on 11 apprentices at their hair salons and training business.

Vanessa and Paul Horrocks, who have VIP Hair salons in Cheslyn Hay and Penkridge, started VIP Training Academy in Brooklands Avenue, Great Wyrley, in September.

They have 11 apprentices aged 16 to 20 on City and Guilds accredited NVQ level two and three courses and Mrs Horrocks, who is head of the centre, said they had also just won a contract to run NVQ level one courses.

Bookkeeper is counting titles

A RUGELEY accountant has won an award from the Bookkeepers Network. Shaun Morris, of Croxley Morris & Co, Crossley Stone, won the bookkeeper of the year category in the 2012 Bookkeeping Awards.

Mr Morris, aged 51, a father-of-one, who lives in Hednesford, started his one-man business in 1990.

He was nominated for the award by his peers. He also won the Reed PQ Accountant of the year title for the Midlands and Anglia regions last year.

Coffee morning at wildlife base

CONSERVATION charity staff are hosting a coffee morning tomorrow (Friday).

Cupcakes, homemade jams, secondhand books, Christmas wreaths and other items will also be on sale at the Staffordshire Wildlife Trust's Wolseley Bridge HQ.

The event takes place from10am till noon.

Food and craft market in village

A FINE food and craft market will be held on Saturday in Penkridge.

The village recently hosted a Victorian Christmas market with entertainment and more than 100 stalls.

Markets are held every Wednesday and Saturday up to Christmas, including on December 22.

Wildwood walk

CHASE & District Group Ramblers will go on a seven mile easy walk from Wildwood, Stafford, this Sunday with optional Christmas lunch afterwards. Meet at Hednesford Rail Station car park, Anglesey Street, for a prompt 9am start. Contact walk leader - Rob 07970 671497

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NEWS

Boy racers face jail in ruling from High Court

BOY racers in Cannock now face two years behind bars after police officers were granted tough new powers by the High Court.

An injunction has been granted to tackle groups of daredevil drivers who regularly congregate at Longford Island and Orbital Retail Park.

The order, which comes into force immediately, will allow officers to disperse groups of street racers after it emerged sting operations to tackle the problem were costing taxpayers £500 a week.

Granted during a 60-minute hearing at Birmingham's Civil Justice Centre, the injunction prohibits street racing along The Orbital, Eastern Way, Watling Street, Lichfield Road, Walsall Road and Avon Road.

Hefty

The High Court heard those who do not comply will be prosecuted and could face jail terms of up to two years or hefty fines.

Over the last 12 months, police and Cannock Chase Council have received complaints of up to 150 vehicles gathering on Sundays between 6pm and 2am, with weekday meetings increasing. Drivers have been seen performing stunts and racing at speeds of up to 100mph.

by Kirsten Rawlins

The injunction defines car cruising as a congregation of two or more vehicles, between 7pm and 7am on a public highway. It also bans activity including car racing, shouting or swearing, playing loud music, dropping litter and blocking roads.

A survey was recently carried out of 200 residents, which was used in evidence.

Judge Robert Owen QC said: "The survey showed an overwhelming majority of people giving their support to the order. This is a public nuisance."

Pantomime needs help to spin its tale

Three of the fairies, Molly Flint, Danielle Beere and Megan Abrahams prepare for Sleeping Beauty

THE classic fairytale Sleeping Beauty will be brought alive by Cannock Chase Drama Society. The cast is performing the annual pantomime at The Prince of Wales Theatre.

The the performances run from Wednesday to Saturday, January 23 to 28. The Wednesday performance starts at 6.30pm with the Thursday to Saturday shows from 7.30pm, with the matinee on the Saturday at 2.30pm.

In a bid to make the panto as original as possible an appeal for help has been launched.

Julie Hunter, of the society, said: "The society are appealing for a spinning wheel to make the production true to the original tale.

"If anyone is willing to loan one to us for the show we would be most grateful."

Tickets are £9 and £8 concessions and are available from the ticket hotline 07968 757820.

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NEWS

Community rallies for pupil hurt in collision

FUNDRAISERS clubbed together to raise money to help a 12-year-old boy who was seriously injured in a car collision.

Cannock schoolboy Luke Yates was in a coma for three months at Birmingham Children's Hospital.

Luke, a Year Eight pupil at Cannock Chase High School, suffered a head injury, broken pelvis and collarbone in the accident near the junction of Bevan Lee Road and Alcott Close in the town at the end of July.

He still suffers from memory problems and is due to go to a specialist rehabilitation centre at Tadworth in Surrey next year.

Volunteers

People have been fundraising to buy Luke presents and help cover associated costs from going to London.

An event including a bake sale, selling crafts, raffle, face painting and an appearance from Santa took place at Bevan Lee Community Centre.

Around £256 was made at the fun day, added to around £1,000 raised throughout the summer. Luke has asked that some of the money be given to Midlands Air Ambulance, the charity which helped save his life on the day of his accident.

Community centre chairman Patricia Cooper, who also runs the youth club, said: "There has been a huge amount of support for Luke, not just from the volunteers here but it brought the whole community together."

Sue Baily, Sophie Molineux, Santa, Emma Baily, Savanah Perkins, Patricia Cooper, Alex Darby, Jordan Osbourne and Shannon Cope at the fundraiser for Luke Yates, seated, at Bevan Lee Estate Community Centre, Cannock

Luke's mother Linda, aged 52, said: "I find it heart warming. I am really grateful for what everyone is doing. He's a popular lad and we're so appreciative to everyone who has helped."

Luke is now back at school, albeit on a part-time basis while he continues his recovery.

Linda was by his bedside every day during his long stay in hospital and said expenses soon racked up. She said: "You just think he'd wake up and everything would get back to normal, but there are a lot of costs involved in his recovery."

Linda said the fun event, held on Sunday, December 2, was a good day and that Luke had enjoyed it.

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LETTERS

Pye Green needs a slice of land sale cash

THE leader of Cannock Chase District Council seems once again to be sticking his head in the sand over another very important issue for Hednesford, the wider needs for sports and recreational provision in and around our town.

We all would clearly love to see improved sporting a recreational facilities across the piece in Cannock Chase and the old stadium site should be part of those plans.Developments of this type come at a well-balanced, fair price, something I don't think the current administration at the council understands at all. If his plan is really just to commit to fully rebuilding the Stadium again then I hope Councillor Adamson has done his sums well and it doesn't simply include just hiking up council tax for the hard-hit council taxpayers to pay for his political desires.

I also sense hypocrisy as Councillor Adamson, who represents Hednesford Green Heath ward, declares the stadium site is not for sale, yet our council under his leadership is happy to see the farm land west of Pye Green sold for 750 houses and for the council to reap the benefits and from a further 330 house in Pye Green Valley itself. These sites will, when building is completed, apparently come with developers paying in excess of £750,000 to the council. From council comments it looks likely this Hednesford money will now be redirected to the Cannock Stadium site alone when it should clearly remain in the areas most affected by these housing developments.

Pye Green Valley needs further wildlife and recreational use protection, if this vital green lung near Hednesford is to survive effectively. If we are to get the monster housing estate in Pye Green West then surely some of the funds it generates should be allocated to recreational and sporting facilities there and nearby Pye Green

GRAHAM BURNETT, Hednesford resident

Properly-funded hospital is desired

IN RESPONSE to Aidan Burley's claim that his scheme to place the running of Cannock's Hospital buildings into the hands of a community held trust will be a winner. In my view he is out of touch and this is unrepresentative of the wishes of the electorate in Cannock.

In my opinion, people in Cannock don't want part of their underfunded hospital taken off the books and rented out to any Tom, Dick or Harry! What they do want is a properly funded hospital, and not the current cuts that are forcing the hospital to run up large deficits.

I believe Mr Burley should do what he was elected to do and express the opposition most people in Cannock feel with regard to the cuts and demise of the NHS as we know it – and he should do so in parliament.

Most of us know the NHS is a national treasure and should be free from any market forces. And it is affordable because it was founded and funded when the country had a far greater deficit than it has now. However, if Mr Burley's scheme is implemented, it will be another step towards the privatisation of the NHS, and the only winners will be those who can afford to pay for treatment.

PAUL WITTON
Cannock

Residents should not accept 'second class' NHS provision

CANNOCK Hospital is the jewel in the crown of National Health Service provision in Cannock Chase. I absolutely believe we need to keep our hospital within the NHS and the Government should fully fund it.

People in Cannock Chase pay their taxes and national insurance in the same way as anywhere else in the country and should not have to accept second class NHS provision.

Unfortunately, Aidan Burley MP is in denial of his own Tory-led Government's NHS policy. They want to fragment and privatise the NHS.

His plan is just a gimmick. He initially suggested that Cannock Chase Council buy 51 per cent of the hospital. This could at least triple council tax for local residents.

To spend this sort of money would breach the threshold permitted in council tax increase and trigger a referendum. A referendum in itself would cost thousands of pounds.

Ownership of Cannock Hospital, the estate and buildings will not determine or guarantee what services will be provided in the hospital or even if it stays open.

I do not believe that Cannock Chase residents want to spend money buying their own hospital, which they already own, in order to have a Limited Company with a complicated leasing scheme set up.

Aidan Burley should speak up against this Tory NHS sell-off policy and demand that the Prime Minister funds and backs both Cannock and Stafford hospitals.

JANOS TOTH
Cannock Chase
Labour Parliamentary Candidate

LETTERS to the Editor

POST
Cannock & Rugeley Chronicle, Chronicle Editorial, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

E-MAIL
cannock.chron@expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Thanks, but no thanks

I RECENTLY received an e-mail from Aidan Burley in which he asked me to put my name forward as a potential Tory candidate for the 2014 elections. It's very kind of him but I think that I might have to decline the offer.

GEORGE ADAMSON
Labour Group Leader,
Cannock Chase Council
Huntington Terrace
Road, Cannock

Cheers for the food donations

MAY I thank a number of people who kindly donate food throughout the year to our Wednesday soup kitchen at Mill Street Chapel, Cannock.

Jessica's Fruit & Veg, Stews of Chadsmoor, Asda for the bread, various chapels and individuals for monetary donations, also Chase Dental Practice.

We are a group of volunteers who are trying to give a little cheer every Wednesday, so are very grateful.

Thank you all, have a very happy Christmas.

MRS J BISSET
Patterdale Road,
Cannock

Festive lights event put town on the map

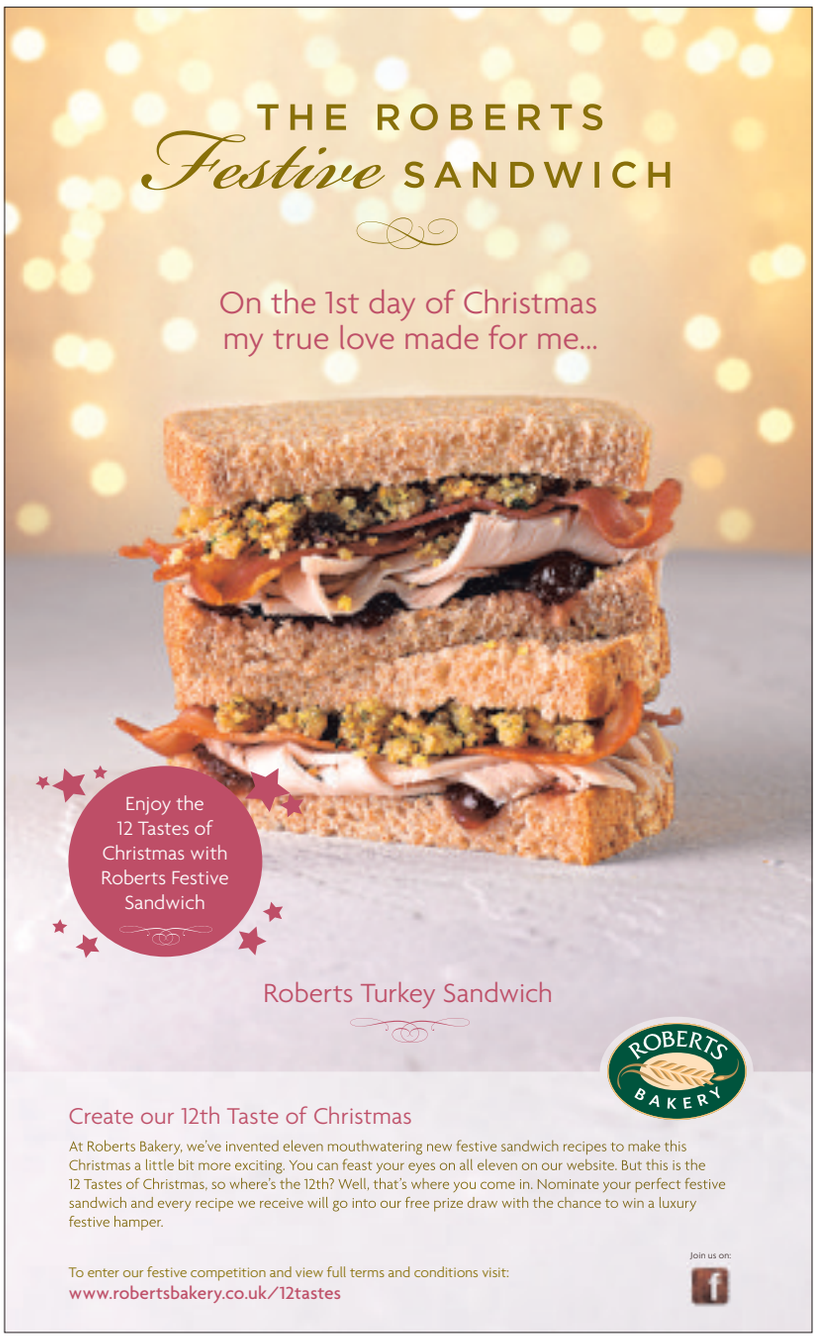
SO, Tesco rules. It seems the hard work of the stallholders, local shops, the schools, organisers and the people of Hednesford who turned out on a bitterly cold Friday,to support the town's light switch-on only deserve a tack on mention to Tesco's reindeer.

Did Tesco raise money for local charities? The stallholders did. Did Tesco give free hot chocolate to stallholders who had been in the town from midday? No. Some of the local shops did ,and I for one was very grateful.

Well done to everyone who took part on Friday, November 30 to put Hednesford on the map,and make the evening such a great night at the switch on.

Shame on you The Chronicle for lumping all the hard work of the people of Hednesford, with Tesco's own stunt to bring in their customers.

MRS MARY LUNNON
Station Road
Hednesford



NEWS

Housing bosses say new development 'on course'

COUNCIL bosses say a major operation to rehouse scores of residents so eyesore blocks of flats can be torn down for a new development is "on course".

Dozens of families have moved out of the Reema flats on the Moss Road estate in Chadsmoor in the last five months. Around half of the 167 flats are empty and chiefs are confident the remainder will be vacated on time for building to begin in spring 2014. Some 130 homes including 60 council properties will replace the flats.

The project is the first council house building programme in Cannock since 1987.

Council spokesman Jamie Summerfield said: "We expect construction to get under way in the spring of 2014 and we're on course to have rehoused all the people by then who are living in the Reema flats that will be demolished.

Brief

"There are 167 flats, and people from 84 of them have now been rehoused.

"A final development brief will be presented to cabinet in the new year, and the council will then be going out to secure a development partner."

Council leader George Adamson says hundreds more council homes are needed. The waiting list for one of the council's 5,500 properties has grown to almost 3,000 this year.

The situation prompted a review of council policies. Police checks for all housing applicants were introduced in April, while tenants in rent arrears also face automatic disqualification from the waiting list.

Pupils add their voices

St Luke's pupils Grace Keates and Blake Treacey, both aged 10

PUPILS from St Luke's CE Primary, Cannock, were among the thousands of youngsters from across the region who sang their hearts out at a sell-out musical performance.

Around 40 children added their voices to the assembled choir of 6,200 for the first of the region's annual Young Voices concerts at Birmingham's LG Arena last week.

A total of 18,600 children performed over three nights. Jane Roberts, headteacher of St Luke's, said the children had been very excited about taking part.

Youngsters donned festive hats and proudly waved a sign bearing the name of the school.

Mrs Roberts said: "It is a great event and gives the children a chance to perform at a venue on this scale."

Golf club aids hospital

CANNOCK Park Golf Club has raised £2,500 for the renal ward at Birmingham Children's Hospital. The club held charity golf days, a car boot sale, sponsored run and cake sales.

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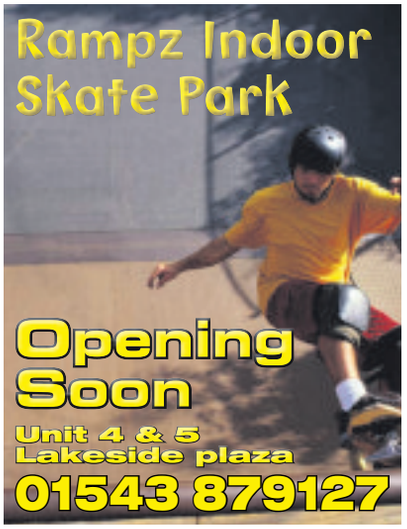

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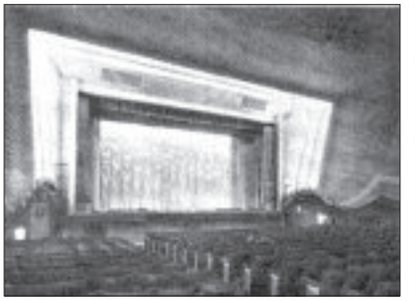
MEMORY LANE

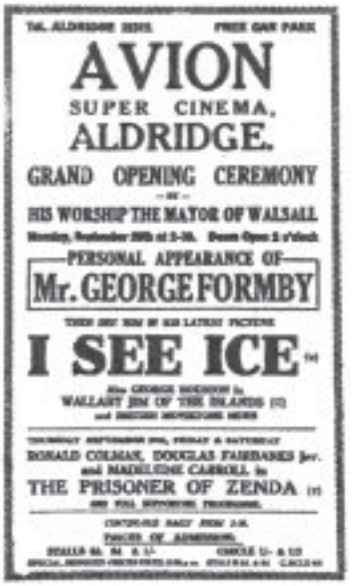
George Formby meets Walsall Mayor Dr E P Drabble



The magnificent proscenium stage at The Avion

Avion staff pictured sometime in the 1950s

The Avion's luxurious foyer circa 1938



An advert for the opening of the new cinema

Avion cinema book is last work of historian

A BOOK based upon the scrapbooks of a cinema manager was launched last week by friends of an Aldridge author, who dedicated the last years of his life to its research.

by Tom Mason

The Avion, by the late author and historian Harry Dennant, tells the stories behind the village's cinema. The grand picture palace was focal point of the community during its heyday during the golden age of Holywood and also saw live performances from top enterainers, such as George Formby.

The book was largely derived from the scrapbooks of the general manager Harry Russell, who worked there for 20 years, as well as from firsthand accounts of patrons and former staff recorded by Mr Dennant since 2007.

The Avion Cinema De Luxe was built by businessman Albert Brain and opened in September 26, 1938, to bring a touch of Hollywood glamor to Aldridge. As well as being a cinema showing American and British movies, The Avion also put on shows and in its later years, like so many cinemas, became a bingo hall.

It hosted George Formby for its grand opening before the war but the premises also saw many other stars after it introduced variety acts in 1950.

These included comedian Larry Grayson, famous for hosting The Generation Game, pianist Semprini and Irish crooner Val Doonican with his group The Ramblers.

Aldridge jockey Johnny Bullock, winner of the 1951 Grand National on 40-1 outsider Nickel Coin, was guest of honour at The Avion to watch a newsreel of his famous victory.

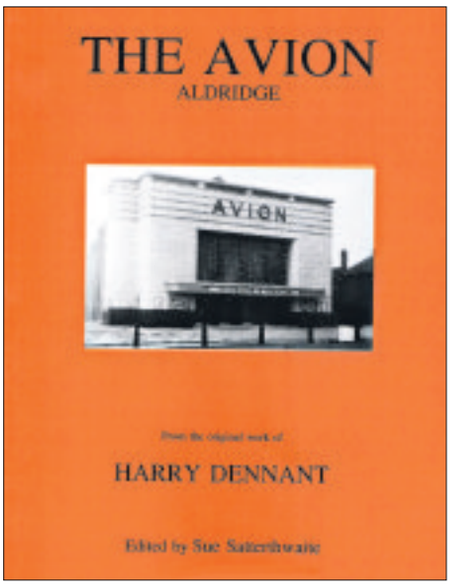
In 1973 an Aldridge man, Harry Whitehouse, purchased the building and converted it into the popular Legalite Bingo Hall, and it remained in his family until his death in 1993 at the age of 83. It was taken over by Jarglen and later Gala Bingo before being abandoned in 2009.

The building was partially demolished but its shell is to be turned into a J.D Wetherspoons pub under plans approved by Walsall Council.

In her foreword, the book's editor Sue Satterthwaite said: "There could be no one better than Harry Dennant to write a book about The Avion. Harry loved the place but sadly he died before his work could be completed."

Proceeds from sales of the book, priced £5m will go to two local charities – Rosie's Helping Hands, a charity which Harry supported, and St Giles Walsall Hospice where the author spent the final days of his life.

The book is available from several local outlets. These include Aldridge Library, in Rookery Lane, Aldridge; Scrumptious Sweets and Treats, Anchor Parade, Aldridge; Lynda's Pets and Plants Walsall Wood Road, Aldridge; and Waterstones, in Park Street, Walsall.



Harry Dennant's book on the village's movie palace

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NEWS

Deer poaching suspects arrested in Chase patrol

A VAN carrying hunting dogs and a deer carcass was stopped by police on Cannock Chase in the latest crackdown on rural crime in Staffordshire.

Uniformed and plain-clothed police officers carried out late-night patrols on the Chase in a bid to catch poachers in the act.

The officers teamed up with park rangers, the RSPCA and experts from the the Staffordshire Wildlife and Countryside Group, carrying out numerous checks on vehicles and occupants around the area.

Three men in their 20s, Stoke-on-Trent, were arrested on suspicion of poaching offences after the van they were travelling in was found to contain the dogs and a deer carcass.

They have been bailed pending further inquiries.

There were also two cautions issued for possession of cannabis and one vehicle was seized for not having insurance.

The Road Policing Team also carried out checks on agricultural plant vehicles and machinery around the county, making checks against crime databases to identify stolen property.

Determined

Supt Dave Holdway, force lead for rural crime, said: "Wildlife and rural crime can affect a wide section of our communities and we are determined to raise the profile of this often under reported area of crime.

"The arrest of individuals believed to be involved in poaching puts out a clear message that crimes against wildlife will not be tolerated in Staffordshire and we will take action against individuals involved in such activity."

Derek Crawley, chairman of the wildlife and group, said: "The only way to stop rural and wildlife crime is to report it.

"Every small piece of information can lead to getting a clearer idea of what the bigger picture is."

Boost for Trudy's charity

A TRUST set up in Rugeley in memory of a mother who died from a brain tumour has just received a £1,150 boost.

The money was raised by Heath Hayes' Conservative Club, which handed over £900, and Cannock Lions Club, which raised £250.

The cash has gone to Trudy's Trust, a Rugeley-based cause set up by Mark and Sue Leeson following the death of their daughter from an aggressive brain tumour.

Trudy Shingler, a forensic psychologist and former beauty queen, died in February last year aged 35.

The trust in her name aims to raise awareness and £1 million for brain tumour research, as well as offering support to other families.

Mr Leeson said: "We're very grateful for both these donations. The support we get is amazing..

"We are helping families all the time, from a young Rugeley mother who has recently had a tumour removed to a young widow in Portsmouth who has just lost her husband to a brain tumour at the age of 38."

Doug Smith, president of Cannock Lions Club, said: "We're very much in support of this local charity and all that it is trying to do."

Mark Leeson, of Trudy's Trust, with Cannock Lions president Doug Smith and, inset, Trudy

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NEWS

Software firm focused on continuing to grow

Craig Johnson and Alan Wild – focus on growth

WITHIN the cosy confines of their single-storey office block in the shadow of Rugeley's Power Station's towering smoking chimneys, bosses at a flourishing software firm are plotting global growth.

by Mark Mudie

Focus Multimedia has recruited four new staff in recent weeks, bolstering the company's payroll to 35, and is advertising for another two positions.

Managing director Craig Johnson said turnover is expected to rise by a fifth in 2013 as the firm steps boldly into the digital age.

It is all a far cry from Focus's humble beginnings in 1995, when Mr Johnson and two other workers founded their new venture at Lea Hall Enterprise Park.

The entrepreneur has built his business on 'impulse price' PC games and software, usually selling for £10 or less.

Tipped

It is a recipe which has reaped rewards in the recession, with the software publisher recently winning a multi-million pound contract to distribute the Angry Birds Star Wars franchise which is widely tipped to top the Christmas sales chart.

Focus supplies 5,000 outlets in Britain, including heavyweight names PC World, Game, Currys, HMV and Tesco, and a further 5,000 in countries such as Australia, South Africa and the US.

"A lot of the products out there are very expensive, £30, £40 or £50 in some cases, and we saw an opportunity," Mr Johnson said. "Now we have 25 per cent market share and are the UK's number one publisher of 'impulse price' PC games and software.

"Without a doubt, the recession has helped us. People are looking for more value for money in everything they do, and gaming is a release from everyday pressures.

"I'm sure it has helped us enormously."

As well as publishing 'traditional gamers' games such as Assassin's Creed, Focus also distributes football management and simulation programmes as well as practical aids including its hugely successful Driving Test Success series.

But now the company is looking to adapt to the rapidly changing face of the marketplace.

Fifteen game 'apps' are in production for release in the coming months with 50 expected to be out by the end of 2013, selling for as little as 69p.

Focus is also branching out into new areas, such as its Mighty Boom Box vibrating speakers aimed at the smartphone generation, and protective cases and decorative skins for iPhones and iPads.

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NEWS

Accident ruling on office worker forklift tragedy

AN office worker was killed when he was crushed between a reversing forklift truck and a lorry trailer at a parcel depot.

An inquest heard Simon Homer was carrying out work he would normally not have been asked to do.

Stafford coroner's court was told Homer, aged 43, of Salisbury Drive, Heath Hayes, was asked to unload goods into the back of a lorry trailer at Yodel parcel depot in Lichfield after arriving early for work on November 22, 2011.

A colleague would normally have carried out the task, the jury was told, but Mr Homer was asked to step in when he arrived first at Yodel's Blenheim Way depot.

Stopped

Mr Homer reversed the forklift up to a lorry trailer and stopped it a short distance away. Bosses believe he then leaned out of the forklift before accidentally squeezing the accelerator, sending the vehicle shooting backwards.

His head was trapped between the forklift and trailer, inflicting fatal injuries. He was pronounced dead at the scene at 10.35pm.

The inquest heard a handbrake had not been applied.

A probe was launched into the accident by the Health and Safety Executive. The inquest heard staff may not have been adequately trained to use the braking system on the forklift.

The jury returned a verdict of death by accident. Coroner Andrew Haigh said he would write to forklift manufacturer Jungheinrich regarding the incident.

Festive crafts workshop

CHRISTMAS crafts for children aged from five-to-12 take place at Penkridge Leisure Centre on Saturday (December 15). Cost of the workshop is £6 and it takes place at the Cannock Road venue from 10am to 2pm. To book, call 01785 714152 .

Festive gifts for abused

Instructor Laura Reynolds and fellow Gymophobics staff collecting presents for the Pathway Project, Claire Jones, Amalia Browne, owner Joanna Rigby and assistant manager Andrea Ford

A WOMEN'S only gym in Rugeley has been collecting presents for mothers and children who will spend Christmas in a hostel.

Gymophobics on Market Street has received more than 70 presents from its staff and customers to give to the Pathway Project which supports victims of domestic abuse.

Director Joanna Rigby said: "We chose the charity because of our connection with women and because we want women and children who are in hostels over Christmas to know that people are thinking of them.

Label

"Our members and our staff have been bringing presents in, all wrapped up and indicating on the label if they are for a mum, a boy or a girl."

She added: "To date we have collected over 70 gifts with more arriving every day.

"We recently held a Christmas fair which raised just under £300 and all the money has been donated to the Pathways Project."

The gym will be collecting presents until Wednesday December 19 and is accepting donations from anyone who would like to help.

For more information call the gym on 01889 570708.

Merry Christmas

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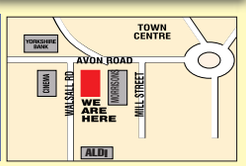

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CLUB NEWS

Musicians add to the festivities

CHASE TERRACE LADIES

EVERYONE brought in food and the club provided the drinks for a marvellous time at our Christmas social evening.

Entertainment was provided by Rob Norman, a talented keyboard player, and Hannah, a beautiful singer, who treated members with songs from shows.

Some of our ladies had recently been to see Les Miserables at the Stafford Gatehouse Theatre and they experienced some wonderful reminders of that show.

It was a special evening for all of us and we also enjoyed singing along with some Christmas carols and other songs.

Much laughter ensued when we realised that most of us could only remember the first verse of these well-known songs.

Sixteen ladies went to a special evening at Bon Marche, Cannock, on November 27 where we had a chance to purchase clothes.

Staff provided nibbles and a raffle where the proceeds, £32, going to Air Ambulance along with the £57 raised by Beth Poole's hamper.

We will add to this the money collected in lieu of Christmas cards. Thanks to Paul, the caretaker, for all his help all year.

Today (Thursday) is the Christmas Meal at The Terrace. The first meeting next year is on January 17 when the National Trust will talk about Calke Abbey.

Cake helps with silver celebration

Celebration – volunteer Linda Brow, member Linda Dicks and organiser Judy Winter

RUGELEY AND DISTRICT STROKE CLUB

A QUARTER of a century of mutual support has been celebrated at Rugeley and District Stroke Club. Members of the club meet every week at the Lea Hall Miners Welfare Centre but celebrated their 25-year milestone with a lunch at Shugborough Hall.

Since 1987, when it was founded by social services worker Gerald Lewis, the club has laid on activities, support and guidance for local stroke sufferers. Original organiser Betty Williams was a guest of honour at the lunch. Her successor Judy Winter said it was a great treat for the club's 45 members, carers and volunteers.

The club raises money for its activities but it recently enjoyed a welcome boost with a £650 donation by town councillor Geoff Martin. However, it desperately needs volunteers to help with the activities and transport. Contact Judy on 01889 583517.

Guilds enjoy carol service

WEST STAFFORDSHIRE FEDERATION OF THE TWG

THE federation held its annual carol service on December 1 at St John's in the Square, Wolverhampton, which was attended by members from the five guilds in the federation.

The service was officiated by the Rev David Wright.

Once again the Marston Singers delighted us with singing their festive selection of carols. Mrs Jean Parsons, the federation chairman gave a vote of thanks and invited everyone to stay for coffee and mince pies and a chat with friends before leaving.

We now look forward to next year's visit to Harrogate for the national AGM.

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When we sat down the first thing we had were papadoms with a large selection of dips and pickles including their speciality, Red Emli Sauce.

As I opened the menu, I was faced with over 30 speciality dishes and a further 14 dishes that have been highly recommended by the Chef. I knew the hardest task I would have all evening was actually choosing just one dish from the starter menu - and that was even before I looked at the main courses.

Eventually I came to a decision. To start our meal I went for Modhu De Hash, something that I hadn't tried before in any restaurant. It was strips of Duck Breast which were cooked perfectly, they just fell apart. It had been shallow fried with a drizzle of honey and roasted sesame seeds and presented to the highest standard. and the aroma was enough to set my taste buds alight. For such a simple dish it was delightful, and I was disappointed when I finished. The portion size was just enough as a starter and it left my mouth watering for my main course.

For the main course I went for a warming Chicken Tikka Masala, a famous and popular dish. It was an ideal dish for a cold December evening and consisted of a generous portion of chicken, grilled in the tandoor and delicately blended in a tangy cream sauce. Again, the presentation was wonderful, it came to my table in a cast iron wok which was sizzling hot, the meat was beautifully cooked,

with plenty of rich flavoured sauce to complement. Egg Fried Rice and Garlic and Cheese Nan were my accompanying dishes, each one was presented well and made sure the main course had a fantastic combination of flavours.

The staff were extremely courteous and helpful, explaining the dishes to me and making sure my glass was full, with a smile at no extra charge.

All in all I found my first experience at Blue Ginger Restaurant a remarkably pleasant one. The atmosphere and the ambience was warm and welcoming and coupled with the outstanding service, I would highly recommend this restaurant to any of my friends and family in the future. I can see why they took top title and named as the Best Curry Chef by the Midland Balti Association 2012/2013. The award comes just months after the same group of curry lovers named the eatery 'the restaurant'.

Open 7 days a week, including bank holidays and with ample free parking, Blue Ginger also offers a takeaway service, which will be delivered straight to your door, free, within a 3 mile radius. Or if you want to telephone through your order on **01543 500300** you can also collect and take advantage of their 20% collection offer.

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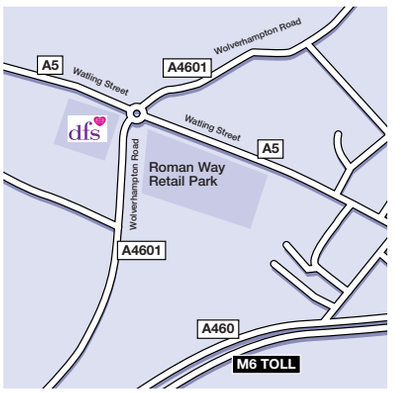

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NEWS

Schoolgirl plea as gift card launched

Donna Degg, aged nine, of Great Wyrley, launches the new gift card with her mother Sarah Degg

A COURAGEOUS schoolgirl from Great Wyrley is asking shoppers to put a new Cancer Research UK gift card at the top of their Christmas lists.

Nine-year-old Donna Degg and her mother Sarah have helped launch the Give and Gift card at the charity's store, in Queen Street, Wolverhampton. Shoppers buying the card have the chance to choose from nine areas of research to support.

Charity bosses say the card is particularly poignant for families like Donna's. The youngster was given a 20 per cent chance of survival after being diagnosed with neuroblastoma, a form of childhood cancer affecting the nerve cells, in October 2007. Donna, a pupil at St John's Primary School, in Essington, was just aged four, when she was diagnosed with stage 4 neuroblastoma, an aggressive condition, and underwent three years of intense treatment to remove a tumour wrapped around the arteries in her stomach.

Mrs Degg said: "We think this is a great Christmas present idea, especially for people whose lives have been touched by cancer, like us."

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NEWS

Rugby hunks strip off to raise chunks of club cash

CANNOCK rugby players are hoping to set pulses racing after they launched a nude calendar to raise funds for new facilities at their home ground.

The Cannock team hopes money from the sale of 'Hunks and Chunks' will help them on their way to building a new four room changing block with two officials rooms, a first aid room and toilet facilities.

Chairman David Taylor said: "Rugby players are never shy in getting their kit off but as it was for their new changing rooms they had no problem in taking part.

"Only time will tell what the wives and girlfriends think of it but I am certain they will be delighted with the discretion of the finished calendar.

by Charlotte Lilley

Peeved

"I really hope it will be a success and that we do another next year.

"I am just slightly peeved I wasn't asked to be featured in it– perhaps I might another year."

The club was reformed in 1981 and moved to its current ground, off Stafford Road, Huntington, in 1987. It now has more than 100 members with three senior league teams and is in the process of forming five youth teams. Work will begin on transforming the site in January and will be completed by the end of June when it will also be open to community groups for meetings and parties.

Mr Taylor added: "We desperately need funds towards this project and also to refurbish our clubhouse to match our new build.

"Anyone can buy a Hunks and Chunks calendar for only £8. It's the perfect present for the love of your life or even someone you do not like.

"People can also sponsor a changing room or official's room and buy a named brick to have a permanent place in our clubhouse"

To sponsor the club or to purchase a calendar call 01543 573493 or 07976811278.

Cannock rugby players hide their modesty

Rugby players bare all for the calendar

Mr April poses for his calendar shot

Players get their kit off for July's pose

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REVIEWS

Harmonious end to year of folk acclaim

June Tabor and The Oysterband, Birmingham Town Hall

IT has been a pretty amazing year for grand dame of folk June Tabor and The Oysterband, both weighed down with trophies from the 2012 Radio2 Folk Awards and their album Ragged Kingdom earning acclaim all over the place.

Oysterband were first on stage led by lead singer John Jones. They laid down the intro for June to quietly walk on stage before moving into Mississippi Summer accompanied by the fiddle and squeezebox.

They slipped into anti-war song Fountains Flowing from their award-winning album. John and June's voices were lifted beautifully by the harmonies of the rest of the band.

The band then pulled out a cover version of the Velvet Underground's All Tomorrow's Parties.

One of the highlights of the set was the a capella (When I Was No But) Sweet Sixteen.

Danny Farragher

They came Saw and conquered

The Saw Doctors Wulfrun Hall, Wolverhampton

The Saw Doctors – Irish band celebrating 25 years

It may be a quarter of a century since the Galway Gang hit the music scene but The Saw Doctors show no signs of slowing down – or taking things easy if the energy and enthusiasm shown here is anything to go by.

The band, including newest recruit Lindsey Cleary, came onto a roaring welcome, opening with World of Good. From then on there was no let up, lapping up numbers such as Tommy K, Will It Never Stop Raining and To Win Just Once. They played loud and long and gave bigger and better versions of some of their old favourites as they took fans on a musical journey through their career.

The Green and Red of Mayo saw Leo Moran let loose on the guitar before the rest of the band got in on the act. For most of the songs, such as in the wonderful Clare Island, all the Docs had to do was provide the opening bars and the fans would have happily taken over.

In the encore the crowd went mental on hearing the opening notes of Joyce Country Ceili Band, which led to the big finish of their unofficial anthem N17 and, finally, Hay Ride. The fans would have kept going all week given the chance.

Danny Farragher

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NEWS

Challenge thrown down to fitness fans by gym

Organiser Ian Stanley and contenders get set to take part in the Christmas Ho Ho throwdown at BC One Crossfit

MORE than 100 fitness fanatics were put through their paces in Cannock in a special festive event.

Bosses at BC One Crossfit, a gym in Cannock that teaches the latest style of exercise training, hosted the festive Ho Ho Throwdown contest.

A total of 27 teams of four slogged it out across a variety of disciplines, including sprinting, rowing and weightlifting. Crossfit, originally from America, also covers ropework, flipping tyres, carrying heavy objects and many bodyweight exercises. Work-outs are typically short, about 20 minutes or less, and intense.

There are now 70 clubs in the UK, just five of them in the Midlands.

Ian Stanley, owner and head coach of the Cannock gym which opened in February, organised the throwdown – the name given to Crossfit competitions.

It attracted teams from Clitheroe, Nottingham and Northampton. The 41-year-old from Great Wyrley said: "More than half the entrants were members at Cannock but it was great to see so many people from other clubs.

"We held out first throwdown in the summer and organised this one on the back of that. It's really popular."

Cannock Chase Council

Changes to your Christmas Waste and Recycling Collection

Please check your calendar for any changes to your Christmas bin collections

Christmas Eve & Christmas Day

Collections due on Monday 24th December will be made 2 days earlier on Saturday 22nd December 2012

Collections due on Tuesday 25th December will be made 1 day earlier on Monday 24th December 2012 (Christmas Eve)

Christmas Week (26th - 28th)

Collections due on Wednesday 26th to Friday 28th will be made 1 day later than normal i.e. 26th on 27th and so on until Saturday 29th December 2012

New Year Week

Monday 31st December 2012 due as normal

Collections due on Tuesday 1st - Friday 4th January 2013 will be made 1 day later than normal i.e. Tuesday 1st January on Wednesday 2nd and so on until Saturday 5th January 2013

Cannock Chase Council wishes you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

scan in this code to find out more information using a QR reader on your phone

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VIDEO GAMES

Mickey to the rescue

Disney Epic Mickey 2 The Power of Two (Disney, U)

A 3D platform game drawing upon Disney heritage, with vintage cartoon look and nods to classic movies, is let down by frustrating game play.

The sequel to Epic Mickey finds the world's most popular mouse returning to the Wasteland to help Oswald the Rabbit face a new threat, and again picks up his magic paintbrush to redraw his world.

The trickiness of some simple tasks is annoying and restricted camera angles don't help. But determined Disney devotees will find some delights. **LB**

Oswald and Mickey team up to save a world of toons

Duty calls for action

Call of Duty Black Ops 2 (Activision, 18)

BIGGER and more brutal, the top shooter delivers plenty of fast-paced action.

The campaign is confusing, except maybe for CoD veterans, switching between father and son US soliders in conflicts from the 1970s to 2025. War zones include Angola, Afghanistan, Pakistan (courting controversy) and a futuristic battle for Los Angeles.

The zombie modes are a blast and the game excels in multiplayer action. Developers Treyarch know how to deliver for CoD fans.

Assassin's Creed III (Ubisoft, 18)

There is plenty of good looking historical action in this latest episode of the stealthy slayer franchise, which sees our hero accessing his genetic memories to time travel to the colonial America of the 1700s.

The background sci-fi plot is tangental to the action after the first assassination in a London theatre. Then hero Desmond's ancestor makes an eventful trip across the Atlantic to the new frontier where revolution is erupting.

You will feel like you've emigrated to the New World by the time you've put in the hours required to complete the tasks.

The vast detailed setting is stunning but you may be too busy to explore, what with hunting, fighting and playing tavern games. ACIII demands patience but fans of the epic story will be rewarded. Both games reviewed on Xbox 360

Leon Burakowski

Sims, seasons and songs

Everyone Sing (O-Games, 12)

THIS a good game to get the party going this Christmas and available for PS3, Wii and Xbox 360. Karaoke game Everyone Sing supports up to four microphones, so singers can perform as individuals or as a group and even choose whether to sing lead or backing.

The impressive 35 song tracklist (with videos in the background) features recent hits from Nicki Minaj, The Wanted and Jessie J, plus old favourites from A-Ha and Lionel Richie, among others.

I reckon the most popular singalongs after a few glasses of wine will be Don't Cha by The Pussycat Dolls and Michael Buble's Haven't Met You Yet.

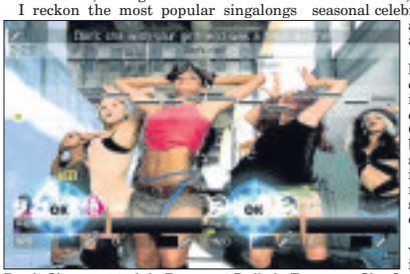
The Sims 3 Seasons Expansion Pack (EA,12)

It always seems to be a sunny day in the virtual world of The Sims 3, at least until the arrival of this expansion pack as EA add ever more detail to the popular PC title.

This time they bring the weather, as your Sims face rain, snow and hail. There are also seasonal celebrations, including Christmas and Halloween, for your creations to experience.

Why should your Sims have life easy? Now they can catch a cold, start to freeze if inappropriately dressed or even get struck by lightning. On the plus side they can build an igloo or learn to snowboard, or go to the beach in summer. And with quirkiness typical of the last expansion pack, Supernatural, they could be kidnapped by aliens.

In the limited edition version they can also chill out in the Ice Lounge.



Don't Cha want to join Pussycat Dolls in Everyone Sing?

Leon Burakowski

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With a dazzling array of outrageous Olivier and Tony award-winning costumes and a hit parade of dancefloor favourites including It's Raining Men, I Will Survive, Hot Stuff, Finally, Boogie Wonderland, Go West, Girls Just Wanna Have Fun, and I Love The Nightlife, this wildly fresh and funny musical is a journey to the heart of fabulous!

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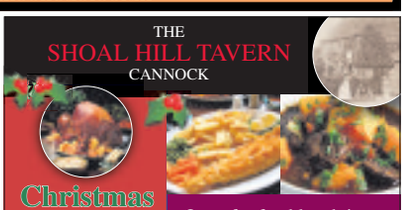

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NEWS

Heavy rain helps levels fill up fast at reservoir

Councillor Mark Winnington at Chasewater, which is filling up quicker than anticipated and is around half full

RECENT heavy rain brought misery to millions, but staff overseeing the recovery of a previously dry reservoir are celebrating after seeing water levels rise dramatically.

Chasewater reservoir, which was drained of water in 2010 amid safety concerns, is now one metre below its normal depth.

The site's 200-year-old dam was repaired to the tune of £5.5million last year after experts feared a breach could flood nearby homes. It was half full as recently as September and was expected to take until at least mid-2013 to refill.

But 70cm of rain in the past two weeks has seen levels of the reservoir return to almost normal.

Target

Staffordshire County Council's Mark Winnington, cabinet member for environment and assets, said: "When we fixed the dam, it was estimated that it would take two to four years to get back to normal levels, but we are already almost at the target level.

"If we continue to get rain like we've had over the year, we could be back to normal levels soon."

In May, sailing clubs were welcomed back on the water, while the outdoor education centre has re-started its canoeing and sailing programmes, which were being held at Stowe Pool in Lichfield.

More wildlife is also being attracted back to the reservoir, in particular birds, with a Great Northern Diver spotted there last week.

The dam repair included creating a new weir with more than 100 tons of concrete, which will control the flow of excess water when the reservoir is full.

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NEWS

Facelift for town is out with old and bin with new

A SIX-figure project to spruce up Cannock town centre is under way, with most of the work due to finish before Christmas, council bosses say.

New litter bins are being installed as part of the district council's town centre improvement programme, while fresh details of the £132,000 scheme have this week been revealed.

The first new black-and-gold bins were installed this week, with others to follow before Christmas.

Around 40 will be replaced, with new bins also being installed in Hednesford.

Additional improvements will see information boards repainted and brought back into use, together with newly-designed town centre maps to aid shoppers.

Priority

The "eyesore" Beecroft Road is to get a deep clean, lick of paint and new anti-slip flooring.

A community art project involving schools will be launched in March to brighten up the underpass, while street furniture will be repainted in the gold and black colours as well as new planting and floral displays created.

The council's Town centre regeneration leader Councillor Diane Todd said: "Many of the old litter bins in Cannock town centre are well past their best. The new bins look so much better and are much better designed as well.

"Improving all of our town centres is a priority for the council and provision was made for some much-needed environmental improvements for Cannock town centre.

"When all the work is completed in 2013 we hope it will have a big impact and make the town much more attractive."

Alongside planned improvements for Cannock, £68,000 has been set aside for a miners' memorial in Rugeley, £50,000 for improvements to Cannock and Rugeley bus stations, and £50,000 for Rugeley Conservation Areas Partnership Scheme.

The works are the latest boost to Cannock after Councillor Todd announced a third of empty shops were filled in five months.

Of 42 shops vacant in July, 14 will be occupied by Christmas.

Councillor Diane Todd and one of the new Cannock town centre bins

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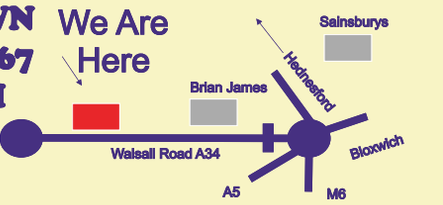

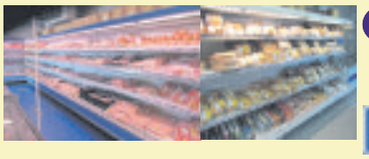

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BOOKS

Festive food and crafty Christmas

Make Your Own Christmas Decorations – Cath Kidston (paperback, Quadrille, £15)

THE retro style as typified by the Cath Kidston brand is most definitely on trend these days, and here's a crafty way to bring that Cath Kidston flavour to the festivities instead of the same old tired tinsel.

The book includes all the sewing and embroidery instructions you need, a kit containing a selection of coloured felt in six different shades, pompoms, ribbon and embroidery thread that can be made up into a selection of 12 different ornaments – including a Christmas cottage, ribbon-wrapped present, candy cane, snowman, reindeer, Christmas pudding, holly leaves and a festive Stanley the Kidston dog. All you need is the needle, some stuffing material and a little spare time.

Nigellissima– Nigella Lawson (hardback, Chatto & Windus, £26)

The divine Nigella dishes up instant Italian inspiration in a richly illustrated book to accompany her latest TV series. Apparently the woman in black considers Italy her gastronomic home after studying Italian at Oxford and a youthful job as a chambermaid in Florence.

There are more than 120 mouthwatering dishes available here and most are easy to prepare with ingredients that are readily available in larger supermarkets.

There are lots of pasta, risottos and simple ways to add some Italian pizzazz, such as Pork Chops with Fennel Seeds and Allspice, all described in Nigella's conversational style. But the recipes really hit celestial heights in the section entitled 'Sweet Things'. Here you can find Sambuca Kisses, Panna Cotttas, the One-Step No-Churn Coffee Ice Cream and a gorgeous Meringue Gelato Cake with Chocolate Sauce. Bellissima indeed.

The Great British Bake Off: Learn To Bake, 80 Easy Recipes For All The Family – Linda Collister (hardback, BBC, £18.99)

Lots of viewers have been inspired by BBC Television's The Great British Bake Off, discovering that baking is not only a useful culinary skill but it can bring families together in both the making and eating of homemade cakes and breads.

This selection of cake, pudding, biscuit and pastry recipes is intended to get kids and their parents back in the kitchen and baking.

Step-by-step guides help budding bakers learn techniques for getting the best possible results, from scones and cookies, to honeycomb crunchies and a simple Christmas cake.

Author Linda Collister is a highly experienced cook who trained in Paris and London and she has the approval of 'queen of cakes' Mary Berry, who contributes a foreward to this recipe book.

Marshmallow Magic – Genevieve Taylor (hardback, Bantam Press, £9.99)

Move over cupcakes, marshmallows are coming back to prove they're not just for campfires or topping steaming mugs of hot chocolate. This scrumptious collection of sweet confections shows you how to make gourmet treats which it says are cheap and easy to make and even low in fat. So what's not to like!

From traditional marshmallows to such nostalgic favourites as jam 'teacakes' via Turkish Delight to such grown-up versions as the mojito marshmallow, there is plenty of squidgy confection heaven here.

A celebration section also includes special party treats including Christmas Candied Fruit Squares and Chocolate and Cinnamon S'mores, so named because you always want some more.

Leon Burakowski

Nigella Lawson – Italian inspiration for her latest collection of recipes in Nigellissima

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NEWS

Park workshops to include orienteering

RESIDENTS in Hednesford are being encouraged to learn skills and meet new people on a variety of courses.

The Friends of Hednesford Park is working with community partnerships to give people the opportunity to take part in workshops including map reading, pole lathing and orienteering from January next year.

Chairman Lynn Evans said: "We decided to hold these courses to encourage people to use the park more and bring them together. If we get a lot of people to attend, we can receive more funding and put on more activities."

Sessions will be held at Hednesford Park and Chasewater Visitor Centre from January 12. Call 07896 239717 or visit www.friendsofhednesfordpark.btck.co.uk /courses

Sofa so good at DFS

Staff members Stuart Guest, Nathan Heeley, Kally Sidhu, Jade Downer, Gill Goodwin and manager Steve Adlam at the new DFS store in Cannock

THE new £5.8million DFS store in Cannock is now open for business. Three jobs have been created by the new 17,000sq ft store off the A5 at Longford Island.

Some of the 25 members of staff based at the existing DFS at Linkway Retail Park will transfer but others will remain at the old shop, which will run an express delivery service and showcase a new range of dining furniture.

Store manager Steve Adlam, who has worked for DFS for nine years, said: "Having been established in Cannock for more than 20 years we're excited to be offering customers a new-look store, along with the opportunity to experience our dining range and express service at the previous Linkway site, just up the road.

"The whole team has been working really hard for the last few weeks to ensure we get the showroom ready."

The firm is also searching for sales people, managers and housekeepers ahead of the opening of a new store at Merry Hill Shopping Centre in Brierley Hill.

Day unit collects 'Best of' award

A CANNOCK Chase Hospital service that rehabilitates patients with neurological conditions has been given an award for its outstanding practice.

The Neurological Rehabilitation Day Unit, which provides specialist outpatient rehabilitation and disability management for those with neurological conditions, has been given a 'Best of Staffordshire' award by the Staffordshire Neurological Alliance.

by Richard Stokes

Clinical nurse specialist Sue Noble said she was proud of the service the Neurological Rehabilitation Day Unit offered to patients.

"Our patients, carers and volunteers are very much a part of our team. We are always a point of contact for advice and many of our patients return as volunteers to give something back to the unit.

"We receive lots of positive comments and feedback from our patients and it's fantastic that we've been recognised with this award."

The team has also established a charity and support group, Life After Rehab Friends (LARF), which fundraises for the unit and provides continuing support and activities for patients following discharge.

John Morgan, from the Staffordshire Neurological Alliance visited the unit before handing over the award.

The Staffordshire Neurological Alliance launched its Best of Staffordshire campaign to praise neurological services that go the extra mile for patients.

Staff's pyjama fundraiser

SUPERMARKET staff will be wearing their pyjamas to work to raise charity cash on Christmas Eve. Sainsbury's is raising money for the Hibbs Lupus Trust and is inviting customers to join in. They can either donate in store or bring their pyjama-wearing children shopping with them. Mark Pickerill, manager at the Orbital Way store, said: "We hope our customers will join in the fun."

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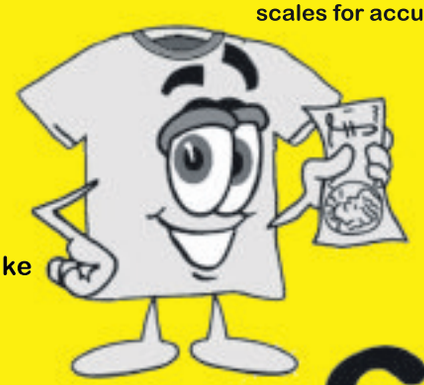

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Handouts for community groups amount to £8,000

COMMUNITY groups in Burntwood have been awarded Grant Aid funding totalling £8,000. The presentation was made at Burntwood Memorial Institute, in Rugeley Road.

Councillors Rod Campbell, and Sue Woodward thanked the 34 organisations for their contributions to the local community before presenting the cash.

by Charlotte Lilley

The sums of money ranged from £100-500 with the top amount being handed to Home Start Lichfield and District, Voluntary Transport for the Disabled and St John's Community Church in High Street, Chase Terrace, which will use the money to buy an audio-visual desktop computer.

Councillor Mrs Woodward said: "We received more than 40 applications from marching bands to organisations supporting carers, so we had to make sure we spent the money wisely.

Developing

"The groups we have chosen are ones that have been working hard in the community and developing services.

"They each set out what they wanted to do with the money beforehand and we made sure they were doing what they were saying.

"It's a great pleasure to be able to give out this kind of money especially at this time of year. We are spreading goodwill to help these organisations thrive."

Among the other recipients were Burntwood Rugby Sports Association was given £400 towards the cost of improving the drainage and surface of the entrance area to the bowl pitches.

Burntwood Adfatonion jazz band founder, Clare Cole received £300 which will go towards the purchase of musical instruments.

She said: "We were amazed that we got this money and the members were really happy.

"The funds will go towards buying more instruments for our group."

Six sports clubs were also awarded more than £1,000 suggesting the London Olympics have had a big effect on the town.

Councillor Mrs Woodward added: "I hope the legacy of 2012 will live on in Burntwood because it would be fantastic for the people and community."

A family visits Burntwood Rotary's Santa float outside Morrisons supermarket

Families on track for a great day at railway

CHRISTMAS came early for a social club in Burntwood after its members and their families were treated to a day out at Chasewater Railway.

Burntwood Gateway Club, a group for adults with special needs, visited the attraction after the Burntwood Lions Club granted their wish.

Funding and event co-ordinator Anne Scandrett said: "I wrote to the Burntwood Lions and asked them if it would be possible for the group to go along with them and visit the railway. They usually take children with special needs not adults, but they said yes and allowed carers and families to go along too.

"We had a brilliant day. Everyone got to meet Father Christmas and we had mince pies and presents.

"Thank you to the Lions and to the railway for making it such a great day."

Leisure venue taster offer

A FREE taster session is being offered at Burntwood Leisure Centre this month.

The High Street venue is offering a 20 minute induction and a two-hour workout. The offer is open to anyone aged 14 or over and includes a free health check. Visit **www.lichfielddc.gov.uk/blctaster**

Spreading cheer with Santa float

BURNTWOOD Rotary Club's Santa float is collecting money for local charities while youngsters have the opportunity to meet Father Christmas.

The float has been visiting residents in and around the area and has so far raised £3,261. It will be touring the streets and supermarkets in Norton Canes, Cannock Wood and Heath Hayes until Sunday, December 23.

Donation

Rotary club secretary Clive Cain said: "As usual, nobody has to pay to meet Santa and tell him what they would love for Christmas, they merely make a small donation according to their needs, 50p or £2.

"Burntwood Rotarians are happy with either since they firmly believe bringing happiness to children is what it is all about."

For more details about where the float will be in the run-up to Christmas, visit **www.burntwoodrotary.co.uk**

Christmas products on display at centre

WITH Christmas less than two weeks away artists and crafters from the region are meeting at Chasewater Innovation Centre this weekend to sell their festive gift products.

The fair at the centre in Pool Road will display the works of several local artists. Visitors can also hear music from a brass band and enjoy beer from specialist on-site brewery Beowulf Brewing Company.

The event on Saturday (December 15) will open on at 10am and go on until 4pm.

Staffordshire county councillor Pat Corfield, cabinet member for culture and community, said: "This is a great opportunity for some Christmas fun and shopping this festive season for all the family.

"Come down on Saturday, sing along with the choir and get into the Christmas spirit."

Homes hit as power is cut

MORE than 50,000 properties were plunged into darkness by a power cut.

Businesses in Burntwood were among those between 7am and 8am on Tuesday.

The problems were caused by a power failure at a substation in Willenhall with Wolverhampton, Walsall and Willenhall also hit.

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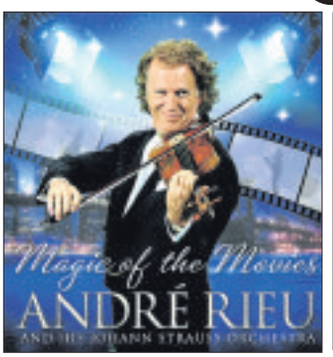
NEW ALBUMS

Easy listening rules

THERE was Mantovani, then James Last and now Andre Rieu and his Johann Strauss Orchestra are the undisputed kings of easy listening music with 30 million albums sold.



The undisputed king of easy listening – Dutch violinist Andre Rieu

Tributes to Elvis and the Stones from star tenor Alfie Boe on his album

His new **Magic of the Movies** collection features the violinist performing favourite romantic film themes, from My Heart Will Go On (Titanic) to Once Upon A Time In The West via Romeo and Juliet's Love Theme.

The Dutch master of the waltz will be packing the LG Arena three times over from December 18 to 20.

More movie magic, this time from **The John Wilson Orchestra** with **Rodgers & Hammerstein At The Movies**, an album eagerly-awaited by those who enjoyed Wilson's 2010 BBC Prom based upon the duo's music.

Heroes

John Wilson has done so much to rescue the classic movie musical scores and this is a lush treat from the Oklahoma Overture to Climb Ev'ry Mountain. Featured singers include Julian Ovenden and Love Never Dies star Sierra Boggess.

Smooth-voiced Scottish crooner Todd Gordon teams up with **The Royal Air Force Squadronaires** for big band swing on fundraising album **Helping the Heroes**, in support of Help for Heroes.

He sings standards such as The Best Is Yet To Come and The Summer Wind and also duets with guest singers Carol Kidd, Jacqui Dankworth, Janet Seidel, Eddi Reader and, on a zingy Who Wants To Be A Millionaire, the always excellent Clare Teal.

Alfie Boe is fast becoming Britain's favourite tenor, a position probably cemented by the affable, bearded singer's summer performance at the Queen's Diamond Jubilee concert.

On **Storyteller** the former mechanic from Blackpool lends his operatic vocals to his favourite songs. So instead of classics and show tunes we get his versions of Elvis Presley's I Can't Help Falling In Love With You and, as performed for the Queen, It's Now Or Never.

He is also a Rolling Stones fan, covering Angie and Shine A Light. He sings at Birmingham NIA on March 22.

The first friar to land a recording deal, **Friar Alessandro** (Brustenghi), from the friary in Italy founded by Saint Francis of Assisi has a rich tenor voice.

Sacred

On his debut **Voice From Assisi** he sings sacred music, old and modern, including the hymn Make Me A Channel of Your Peace, a prayer attributed to Saint Francis.

Under the baton of Gareth Malone, no fewer than 24 **Military Wives** choirs – that's 760 singers – take part in **Stronger Together**, the follow up to their hugely successful In My Dreams. It includes a revamped version of Gary Barlow's Diamond Jubilee anthem Sing and Take That's Rule The World, plus versions of Richard Marx's Right Here Waiting, Barry Manilow's One Voice and festive favourite In The Bleak Midwinter.

Mentor Malone has also co-written two pop songs for the Wives, Stronger Together and the melancholy Counting Time.

Caro Emerald Presents **Drum Rolls & Heart Breaks** is an enjoyable 2 CD collection of vintage jazz and swing tunes from the 1930s to 60s, ranging from The Andrews Sisters and their inspiration The Boswell Sisters to Billie Holiday and Django Reinhardt, Dean Martin and Doris Day.

The special bonus is Dutch pop-jazz singer Caro Emerald's cover of Dream A Little Dream Of Me.

Leon Burakowski

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**the "from" price and price bands vary for each show – see brochure for details. Single room supplements apply.*

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What's On!

Tribute to late choir member

A CANNOCK choir is to stage several performances to raise money for charity in memory of a fellow singer who died of cancer earlier this year.

Mixed voice choir Bel Canto will be performing John W Peterson's Night of Miracles at three different venues, to honour the memory of their singer Sue Withington and raise money for Cancer Research UK.

The first was performed at Bethany Baptist Church, Chadsmoor, on December 9 with £420 being raised.

Final

The same show was performed in Christchurch, Burntwood on Tuesday December 11 Two final performances take place at 10.30am in St Paul's Methodist Church, Rugeley, on Sunday, December 16 and again at 6pm for a carol service at St Luke's Church, Cannock.

June Barke, choir organiser, said: "The best way to remember Sue was definitely through the music she loved and performed so brilliantly.

Complete Beatles sounds at theatre

THE Complete Beatles will entertain fans at the Prince of Wales Centre in Cannock tomorrow night (Friday).Tickets are £15.

The following night sees a tribute to Roy Orbison and Friends at the Church Street venue with tickets priced at £19.

Call 01543 578762 to book or for more details.

The pantomime season is here again... oh yes it is!

THE FESTIVE season is almost upon us and that means pantomime time and a feast of family entertainment at the region's theatres.

The second city's big panto is Robinson Crusoe and the Caribbean Pirates (December 15-January 29) with jungle escapee Brian Conley making his sixth panto appearance at the Hippodrome, this time with Birds of a Feather star Lesley Joseph.

Brian Conley and Lesley Joseph star in the Birmingham Hippodrome panto

The Grand Theatre in Lichfield Street, Wolverhampton reunites Coronation Street couple Sherrie Hewson and Ken Morley in Jack and the Beanstalk (until January 20). Appearing alongside them will be Keith Harris with Orville the Duck and Cuddles.

Beanstalk

Potteries favourite Jonathan Wilkes is Buttons in Cinderella at The Regent in Stoke (December 13 to January 4).

Other children's shows include Birmingham Rep's Wind in the Willows (until January 19) at the Crescent Theatre and James and the Giant Peach (until February 2) at the Old Rep.

The Royal Shakespeare Company present The Mouse and His Child in Stratford until January 12.

Strictly stars for NIA next month

West End star Denise Van Outen

GB Olympic gymnast Louis Smith

Popular actress Lisa Riley

WITH just a couple of weeks until the Strictly Come Dancing grand final on TV, the celebrities appearing at the NIA in Birmingham as part of the live show have been announced.

West End star Denise Van Outen and former England cricketer Phil Tufnell are the final celebrities added to the tour calling at Birmingham for the weekend of January 18-20.

Judges

They join Tracey Beaker star Dani Harmer, TV presenter Fern Britton, actress Lisa Riley, Olympian Louis Smith and former England cricket captain Michael Vaughan. Kate Thornton hosts and the judges will be Craig Revel Horwood, Len Goodman and Bruno Tonioli.

Tickets from £35 to £65 plus fees.

REVIEW

Traditional pantomime

Cinderella, Cannock Wood and Gentleshaw Music Society, Prince of Wales Centre, Cannock

CWAGMS chose a traditional pantomime for their winter offering: the first of such genre for nearly 10 years.

Director Sharron Burns' show had all the required elements to entertain the near-capacity audience, including a charming huntsmen's ballet and the obligatory audience participation.

The 'transformation' scene was well constructed, ending with a spectacular Cinderella's coach.

Principals were all competent with special mention to Sarah Mitchell's Fairy Godmother and Neville Leedham's Buttons.

It was well-costumed but would have benefited from a little more scenery.

The chorus items were well-staged and, along with the nine-piece band, sounded well. **Bryan Till**

West End star is 'home' for show

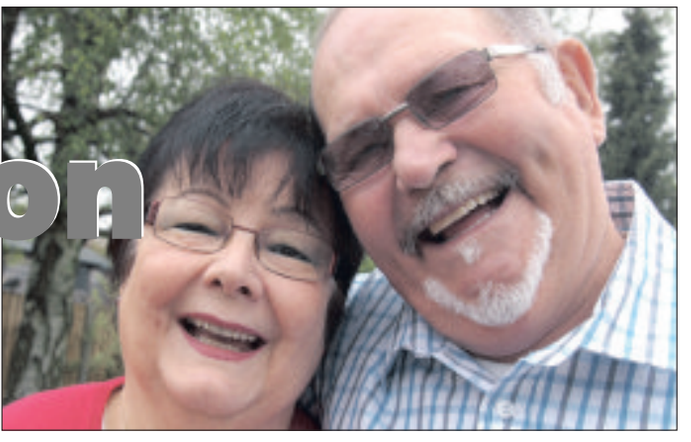
WEST End star Andy Reiss is back on home turf for Beyond The Barricade at Christmas next week.

The Cannock-born performer brings the popular show to the Prince of Wales Centre for its 2012 tour on Tuesday, December 18 from 7.30pm. Tickets are £18 from the box office on 01543 578762.

Advertisement

Clive's transformation

A working union between two dental professionals is helping to bring about life-changing outcomes. Retired sales director Clive, right, with wife Magaret, was terrified of dentists. Read why now he's recommending his friends book in to see them.



A Navy nightmare is finally overcome by the power of creative dentistry

Suction solution

A CUTTING-EDGE development to help resolve the stability problems faced by thousands of denture wearers is now available.

Denturist Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS(Eng) says the invention has the potential to improve the life quality of those experiencing long-term problems with ill-fitting teeth. The Ultra Suction teeth are held in place by tiny valve-operated suction devices.

All on 4 now here

ONE of the most advanced restorative options for denture wearers is availalbe in Wolverhampton and Dudley. An implant system called All on 4 offers a permanently retained full arch of teeth in a day. ❑ ***Call us for more details.***

Traditional options

THE work of the Denture Clinic has found satisfied customers from as far away as Spain. Its hand-crafted dentures, made in laboratories on the premises, are known for their natural look. Clinic principal Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS (Eng), says: "I remain passionate about resolving denture problems and for many, quality, traditional dentures can bring about hugely effective results."

CLIVE was so afraid of the dentist he plucked up all of his courage and begged him to extract all of his teeth so that he'd never have problems ever again.

That was more than 20 years ago, but what the retired sales director didn't know was that his tooth troubles were far from over.

Following the extractions dentures were fitted and he no problems for a few years. It was a welcome break from the pain he had experienced and the catalogue of dental disasters he had endured.

But the natural ageing process began to take its toll and Clive experienced stability problems with the lower denture as his gums receded. For five years he endured the embarrassment of dentures, sore spots on his gums and denying himself some of his favourite foods. "It took real determination to face up to the problem and the prospect of more dental work."

Clive recalls his first dental nightmare: Stationed at Malta while in the Royal Navy, he suddenly had raging toothache the night before he was due to play in a football match.

"I'd been drinking to dull the pain but as soon as I was back on board the duty dentists was summoned. He'd been drinking too and when he injected me with the anaesthetic he broke the needle.

"I eventually had to have an X-ray so he could find where the needle was. That was me finished. I'd do anything to avoid the dentist from there on."

In recent years Clive has had four denture relines to help the stability issues, but none provided a long-term solution.

Flashing his new smile and laughing heartily, Clive adds: "Things were so bad that if I turned to the right my teeth would still be facing forward.

"I can't stress how big a deal it was for me to get things sorted. I was terrified, so when I saw a piece in the paper about Steven Burchell and suction denture technology, I agreed to see him."

Clive's gum erosion was too severe for the suction system to work effectively and he decided to have implant-retained dentures. He was referred by Mr Burchell Dip CDT RCS (Eng), whose Denture Clinic is based at the Parkdale Dental Clinic in Tettenhall Road, Wolverhampton, and North Street, Dudley, to implantologist Mr Jonathon Pugh BDS MSc. Mr Pugh, principal of the Parkdale practice, carried out the surgery and the prosthetics were hand-crafted by Mr Burchell.

Clive recalls the procedure. "I was dreading it, but all I felt was a sensation that Mr Pugh was rubbing my gums." Clive's wife, Margaret, adds: "It's true! I was allowed to sit in with Clive. We were both treated excellently."

Since having the implant-retained dentures, Clive has been able to bite into crispy apples and indulge himself with pork crackling. "I feel comfortable and confident, it's the best money I've ever spent and have recommended both Steve and Jon to friends."

Denture Clinic

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Parkdale Dental Clinic

What's On!

SATURDAY'S TV 15.12.12

Listings supplied by Press Association

CHOICE

Sarah Harding

10 Years of Girls Aloud ITV1, 9pm

Winning a TV talent show is no guarantee of a lasting career – just ask One True Voice, the boy band formed on the show Popstars: The Rivals in 2002. So, we can't begrudge their fellow winners, Girls Aloud, celebrating their 10th anniversary with a new single and a reunion. This documentary looks back at how Nadine Coyle, Sarah Harding, Nicola Roberts, Kimberley Walsh and Cheryl Cole were brought together in the first place, and looks at why they became one of Britain's biggest girl groups. We also follow the girls as they prepare for their comeback.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Baking Made Easy. (R) **12.00** BBC News; Regional News; Weather. **12.15** Football Focus. **1.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.30** Gymnastics: World Cup. **4.00** Final Score. **5.25** BBC News; Regional News; Weather. **5.45** A Question of Sport: Sports Personality 2012 Special.

6.30 Strictly Come Dancing. Bruce Forsyth and Tess Daly host the semi-final, in which the five remaining couples battle it out on the ballroom floor for a coveted place in next week's final.

8.15 Merlin. Mordred is torn between loyalty and love, unaware his choice will shape Camelot's destiny – and as the drums of war beat louder, Merlin feels trapped by the cruel circle of fate.

9.00 The National Lottery Saturday Night Draws. OJ Borg presents as the balls are set rolling to decide the all-important numbers. Including the Lotto and Thunderball draws and Lotto Plus 5 results.

9.15 Casualty. Tensions rise once again between Tom and Dominic as they argue over the treatment of a baby with severe hypothermia, while Dylan finally admits he has not moved on from Sam.

10.05 BBC News; Weather.

10.25 Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights of today's Premier League clashes, including Newcastle United v Manchester City and Manchester United v Sunderland; National Lottery Update.

11.45 The Football League Show.

1.00 Weatherview. **1.05** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 CBeebies. **12.00** Animal Park. (R) **1.00** Coast. (R) **1.20 Film:** Holiday Affair. (1949) **2.45 Film:** The War Lover. (1962) **4.30** Escape to the Country. (R) **5.30** Flog It! (R)

6.30 The Hairy Bikers: Mums Know Best at Christmas. Si King and Dave Myers find out what women are cooking for their families over the festive period, including roast goose and salted cured lamb steamed over birch twigs. (R)

7.30 Don't Panic! The Dad's Army Story. Victoria Wood pays tribute to the timeless humour of Dad's Army, introducing classic moments from the long-running series. Contributors include Ian Lavender and Clive Dunn. (R)

8.20 Dad's Army. Mainwaring's men face the might of a rival platoon in a battle to prove their worth. Arthur Lowe and John Le Mesurier play the superannuated soldiers. (R)

9.20 Clive Dunn: A Tribute. Family, colleagues and friends pay tribute to much-loved actor Clive Dunn, who died in November and was best known for his role as Lance-Corporal Jones in classic sitcom Dad's Army.

10.00 Jools Holland: My Life in Music. The musician and Later host talks about his life and career, with contributions by Tom Jones, Hugh Laurie, Stephen Fry, Paul Weller, Bob Geldof and Vic Reeves.

11.00 Later with Jools Holland and Friends. A compilation of Jools' performances with his guests.

12.00 Film: Savage Grace. (2007)

1.30 Film: Priceless. (2006) **3.10** Close.

ITV1

6.00 CITV: Babar and the Adventures of Badou. **6.10** Babar and the Adventures of Badou. (R) **6.25** The Hive. (R) **6.35** The Hive. (R) **6.45** The Hive. (R) **6.50** Canimals. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.05** Fleabag Monkeyface. (R) **7.20** Fleabag Monkeyface. (R) **7.25** Almost Naked Animals. (R) **7.40** Almost Naked Animals. (R) **7.50** Horrid Henry. (R) **8.05** Horrid Henry. (R) **8.15** Horrid Henry. (R) **8.30** Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **10.20** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **11.15** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **12.20** ITV News; Weather. **12.30** Holiday Home Sweet Home. **1.30** Holiday Home Sweet Home. **2.30** Midsomer Murders. (R) **4.25** All Star Family Fortunes. (R) **5.15** Regional Programme ; Weather.**5.30** ITV News; Weather. **5.45 Film:** Back to the Future Part II. (1989)

7.40 Take Me Out Celebrity Christmas Special. Keith Lemon, Joe Swash and Matt Johnson try to impress a line-up of 30 single women from series past and present and win a date to the Isle of Fernandos. Last in the series.

9.00 10 Years of Girls Aloud. The story of the girl group, from their formation on Popstars: The Rivals in 2002 to the release of their greatest hits album this year, featuring interviews with all five members.

10.20 ITV News: Weather.

10.35 Michael Bublé: Home for Christmas. (R)

11.50 Film: Captivity. (2007) Horror, with Elisha Cuthbert.

1.15 The Store. ITV News Headlines. **3.00** In Plain Sight. (R) **3.40** ITV Nightscreen. **5.30** ITV Morning News.

CHANNEL 4

6.10 The Hoobs. (R) **6.35** The Grid. (R) **7.00** Teenage Superhumans. **7.55** The Morning Line. **8.55** T4: Rockcorps 2012. **9.10** T4: The Hobbit: T4 Movie Special. **9.45** T4: Will & Grace. (R) **10.15** T4: Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **10.45** T4: Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **11.15** T4: Frasier. (R) **11.40** T4: Frasier. (R) **12.10** T4: The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.40** T4: The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.10** T4: The Simpsons. (R) **1.45** Channel 4 Racing. **3.55** The Simpsons. (R) **4.25** Come Dine with Me: Ireland. **4.55** Come Dine with Me: Ireland. **5.25** Come Dine with Me: Ireland.

6.00 Come Dine with Me: Ireland. Yoga teacher Dervil Fleming hosts the fourth dinner party from Co Kerry.

6.30 Come Dine with Me: Ireland. Music teacher Sean Treacy hosts the final dinner party.

6.55 Channel 4 News.

7.25 4thought.tv. Religious beliefs and the law.

7.30 Heston's Fantastical Food. Heston Blumenthal makes super-sized versions of lunchbox favourites. (R)

8.30 Stephen Fry: Gadget Man. The actor delves into the world of technology. (R)

9.00 Film: The Twilight Saga: Eclipse. (2010) Premiere. Bella Swan's supernatural love triangle threatens to ignite a conflict between vampires and werewolves. Romantic fantasy sequel, with Kristen Stewart and Robert Pattinson.

11.30 Film: Remember Me. (2010) Premiere. Romantic drama, starring Robert Pattinson.

1.30 Film: The Escapist. (2008)

3.10 Hollyoaks. **5.20** Countdown.

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Power Rangers: Super Samurai. **10.35** ThunderCats. **11.10** Chinese Food in Minutes. (R) **11.20** Highland Emergency. (R) **11.55** The Gadget Show. (R) **12.55** Chris Tarrant: Extreme Railways. (R) **1.55 Film:** A Grandpa for Christmas. (2007) Family comedy, starring Ernest Borgnine. **3.35 Film:** Meet the Santas. (2005) Fantasy comedy sequel, with Steve Guttenberg. **5.20** 5 News Weekend. **5.25 Film:** Mrs Miracle. (2009) A talented housekeeper helps a widowed father of twin boys to turn his life around and rediscover his love of music. Family drama, starring Doris Roberts and James Van Der Beek.

7.20 Film: An Old Fashioned Christmas. (2010) Premiere. A wealthy woman visits an Irish earl in the hope than he can help her grand-daughter's literary career. Period drama sequel, with Jacqueline Bisset and Catherine Steadman.

9.00 Greatest Christmas TV Moments. Countdown of 50 festive TV highlights, featuring Gavin & Stacey, Morecambe and Wise, Only Fools and Horses, Wallace and Gromit, Doctor Who, Top of the Pops and The Royle Family. (R)

11.55 Inside Hollywood. Magazine show, with location reports, news and views from behind the scenes.

12.00 SuperCasino. Live interactive gaming. **4.00** Michaela's Wild Challenge. Michaela Strachan gets groomed by monkeys. (R) **4.25** Great Artists. (R) **4.50** Rough Guide to Beaches. (R) **5.05** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.15** The Milkshake! Show. (R) **5.40** Thomas & Friends. (R) **5.50** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three

7.00 Doctor Who **8.05** Top Gear **9.15** Russell Howard's Good News Extra **10.00 Film:** Kill Bill: Vol 1 (2003) **11.45** Family Guy

BBC Four

7.00 Around the World in 60 Minutes **8.00** David Attenborough's First Life **9.00** The Killing III **11.00** Elvis in Las Vegas

ITV2

3.50 The Xtra Factor: Girls Best & Worst Ever **4.50** The Xtra Factor: Boys Best & Worst Ever **5.50** The Xtra Factor: Groups Best & Worst Ever **6.50** The Xtra Factor: Overs Best & Worst Ever **7.55** The Xtra Factor: Judges Best & Worst Ever **9.00** Take Me Out: The Gossip Celebrity Christmas Special **9.45 Film:** Sleepy Hollow (1999) **11.55** A Celebrity Juicemas Carol – Chapter 1

ITV3

5.55 Murder, She Wrote **7.00** Christmas Lights **8.30** Fast Freddie, the Widow and Me **10.00** Bomb Girls **11.00 Film:** Sleepers (1996)

ITV4

3.55 Film: Follow a Star (1959) **6.05 Film:** Support Your Local Gunfighter (1971) **8.00** River Monsters **9.00** Amir Khan: Sports Life Stories **10.00 Film:** Unleashed (2005)

E4

7.00 How I Met Your Mother **8.00** Rules of Engagement **9.00** Derren Brown: The Secret of Luck **10.00 Film:** Hostage (2005)

Film4

3.05 The Poseidon Adventure (1972) **5.25** Ice Age: The Meltdown (2006) **7.10** The Wedding Date (2005) **8.50** The Hobbit Interview Special **9.00** Transporter 3 (2008) Action thriller sequel, starring Jason Statham. **11.05** The Final Destination (2009)

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What's On!

SUNDAY'S TV 16.12.12

Listings supplied by Press Association

CHOICE

Sue Barker

Sports Personality of the Year 2012
BBC1, 7.30pm

The big question in 2012 isn't who will win the BBC Sports Personality of the Year award, but who won't. It's been such an extraordinary period for British sport that there are some massive names who won't even make it to the shortlist. After becoming the first Brit to win a Grand Slam event for decades, not to mention his Olympic medals in the men's singles and mixed doubles, you might expect Andy Murray to be a shoe-in. But he'll face stiff opposition from current favourite, cyclist Bradley Wiggins and Mo Farah.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.40** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Fern Britton Meets Daniel O'Donnell. **11.00** Sunday Politics; Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.25** Countryfile. (R) **1.20** Bargain Hunt. (R) **2.05** Regional Programme. **3.05** Call the Midwife. (R) **4.05** Lifeline. **4.15** Songs of Praise. **4.55** Nigel Slater's 12 Tastes of Christmas. (R) **5.25** BBC News; Regional News; Weather. **5.50** Countryfile.

6.50 Strictly Come Dancing: The Results. Tess Daly and Claudia Winkleman announce which two couples will be hanging up their dancing shoes, determining the line-up for next week's final. Katherine Jenkins also performs.

7.30 Sports Personality of the Year 2012. Sue Barker, Gary Lineker and Clare Balding present this year's ceremony live from the ExCeL in London, where the successor to Mark Cavendish will be crowned from a shortlist of 12.

10.05 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

10.30 Match of the Day 2. Colin Murray reviews the day's Premier League action, featuring Tottenham Hotspur v Swansea City at White Hart Lane and West Bromwich Albion v West Ham United at the Hawthorns.

11.30 The Graham Norton Show. With Martin Freeman, Dawn French, Emma Thompson, Lee Mack and Girls Aloud. (R)

12.15 Film: Three Fugitives. (1989) **1.50** Weatherview. **1.55** Sign Zone: Film 2012. (R) **2.25** Holby City. (R) **3.25** Great British Food Revival. (R) **4.25** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 CBeebies. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.30** Nigella's Christmas Kitchen. (R) **12.00 Film:** Follow the Fleet. (1936) **1.50 Film:** Shall We Dance? (1937) **3.35** Animal Park. (R) **4.05** Coast. (R) **5.00** Flog It! (R)

6.00 Cuba with Simon Reeve. The broadcaster heads to the Caribbean to look at the effects of the past two years of economic liberalisation, exploring the impact it has had on Cubans and their society. (R)

7.00 The Great Spanish Crash. Paul Mason travels to Spain to investigate how its once-thriving economy has become the latest casualty of the Eurozone crisis and left the country in need of a bailout.

8.00 Fawlty Towers. Basil decides to enhance the hotel's reputation with an exclusive night of gourmet cuisine. Unfortunately, his new chef is distracted by hapless waiter Manuel. (R)

8.30 Film: Calendar Girls. (2003) Members of a Yorkshire branch of the Women's Institute cause controversy when they pose nude for a charity calendar. Fact-based comedy, starring Helen Mirren and Julie Walters.

10.15 QI XL. Extended edition.

11.00 Never Mind the Buzzcocks. Liza Tarbuck hosts, with guests Rita Ora, Labrinth, Jameela Jamil and Jason Manford. (R)

11.30 Film: Surviving Christmas. (2004) Family comedy, starring Ben Affleck.

12.55 Film: Body Heat. (1981) **2.45** BBC News. **4.25** The Super League Show. **5.25** Close.

ITV1

6.00 CITV: Engie Benjy. **6.10** Babar and the Adventures of Badou. (R) **6.25** Babar and the Adventures of Badou. (R) **6.35** Signed Stories. (R) **6.45** Monk. (R) **6.50** Canimals. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.05** Fleabag Monkeyface. (R) **7.15** Fleabag Monkeyface. (R) **7.30** Almost Naked Animals. (R) **7.40** Almost Naked Animals. (R) **7.50** Almost Naked Animals. (R) **8.00** Big Time Rush. **8.30** Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** There's No Taste Like Home. (R) **10.30** Dinner Date. (R) **11.30** Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) **12.30** ITV News; Weather. **12.35 Film:** Carry On Don't Lose Your Head. (1966) **2.20** The X Factor Results. (R) **4.20** Regional Programme ; Weather.**4.40** ITV News; Weather. **4.50 Film:** E.T.: The Extra-Terrestrial. (1982)

7.00 Happy Birthday E.T. Celebrating the 30th anniversary of E.T.: The Extra-Terrestrial, this documentary explores the making of Steven Spielberg's classic film, with contributions by some of the cast.

8.00 The Making of a Lady. A penniless woman marries a lord for money, rather than love, but her new life of wealth brings envy and danger. Period drama, starring Lydia Wilson.

9.45 ITV News; Weather.

10.00 Film: I Am Legend. (2007) Sci-fi thriller, starring Will Smith.

11.50 Pensioners Behind Bars. The growing number of over-60s doing time for a criminal offence. (R)

12.40 The Store; ITV News Headlines. **2.40** Motorsport UK. **3.30** ITV Nightscreen. **5.30** ITV Morning News.

CHANNEL 4

6.05 Sali Mali. (R) **6.10** The Hoobs. (R) **6.35** The Hoobs. (R) **7.00** The Grid. **7.30** Survival of the Fittest. **8.00** Will & Grace. (R) **8.25** Frasier. (R) **8.55** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **11.50** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.20** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.45** The Simpsons. (R) **1.15** The Simpsons. (R) **1.45** Deal or No Deal. **2.45 Film:** Hocus Pocus. (1993) **4.40 Film:** Deck the Halls. (2006)

6.20 Channel 4 News.

6.50 The Political Slot. Education minister Elizabeth Truss MP talks about free schools.

6.55 4thought.tv. Members of the public reflect on religious issues.

7.00 Come Dine with Me Christmas Special. Christmas hitmakers Maizie Williams of Boney M and Jona Lewie are joined by soul singer VV Brown and DJ Toby Anstis for a week of festive dinner parties.

8.00 River Cottage: Three Go Mad at Christmas. Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall is joined by Stephen Mangan, Mark Heap and Kathy Burke for a festive cookery extravaganza on the River Cottage farm.

9.00 Homeland. Carrie begins to suspect there is a mole in the CIA.

10.00 Peep Show. Jeremy moves in with Super Hans.

10.35 Film: I Love You Phillip Morris. (2009) Premiere. Romantic comedy drama, with Jim Carrey and Ewan McGregor.

12.25 8 Out of 10 Cats: Best Bits. **12.55** American Football Live. **4.45** Grudge Match. (R) **4.55** Deal or No Deal. (R) **5.50** Quick Bakes with Eric Lanlard. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Fifi and the Flowertots. (R) **6.25** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) **6.30** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.45** Olive the Ostrich. **6.50** Abby's Flying Fairy School. (R) **7.00** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.10** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **7.25** Animal Antics. (R) **7.30** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.40** City of Friends. (R) **7.50** Little Princess. (R) **8.05** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.25** Angelina Ballerina. **8.40** Rupert Bear. (R) **8.55** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.10** Toby's Travelling Circus. (R) **9.25** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **9.40** Jelly Jamm. (R) **10.00** Power Rangers: Super Samurai. **10.35** ThunderCats. **11.10** Chinese Food in Minutes. (R) **11.15** Highland Emergency. (R) **11.45 Film:** Mr St Nick. (2002) **1.30 Film:** Battle of the Bulbs. (2010) **3.15 Film:** All I Want for Christmas. (2007) **5.00 Film:** The Da Vinci Code. (2006)

7.55 5 News Weekend.

8.00 Film: Click. (2006) A man gets his hands on a remote control that allows him to fast-forward through the dull parts of his life. Comedy, starring Adam Sandler.

10.00 Film: Zack and Miri Make a Porno. (2008) Premiere. Two friends plan to shoot a porn film, but find having sex for the cameras makes them rethink their feelings for each other. Comedy, with Seth Rogen and Elizabeth Banks.

11.55 World's Craziest Police Pursuits 2. (R)

12.55 SuperCasino. **4.00** House Doctor. (R) **4.50** Rough Guide to Cities. (R) **5.05** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.15** The Milkshake! Show. (R) **5.40** Thomas & Friends. (R) **5.50** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Merlin **7.50 Film:** The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe (2005) **10.00** Him & Her **10.30** Family Guy **11.15** American Dad!

BBC Four
7.00 The Roasts of Christmas Past **8.00** A Very English Winter: The Unthanks **9.00** Chas & Dave: Last Orders **10.00** Storyville: The Other Irish Travellers **11.00 Film:** The Hunter (2010)

ITV2
3.35 Take Me Out Celebrity Christmas Special **4.50** Take Me Out: The Gossip Celebrity Christmas Special **5.35 Film:** The Mummy Returns (2001) **8.00** The Xtra Factor: Winner's Story 2012 **9.00 Film:** Gladiator (2000)

ITV3
3.40 Agatha Christie's Poirot **5.55** Lewis **7.55 Film:** Housesitter (1991) **10.00** A Is for Acid. The story of killer John George Haigh, starring Martin Clunes.

ITV4
2.05 Film: Support Your Local Gunfighter (1971) **4.00 Film:** Weekend at Bernie's (1989) **6.00 Film:** Without a Clue (1988) **8.15 Film:** Jackie Chan's First Strike (1996) **10.00 Film:** Enter the Dragon (1973)

E4
3.40 The Big Bang Theory **8.00 Film:** Just My Luck (2006) **10.00** Misfits **11.00** The Inbetweeners

Film4
2.45 The Belles of St Trinian's (1954) **4.35** The Remains of the Day (1993) **7.15** Jumper (2008) A man with the ability to teleport is hunted by a secret religious society determined to wipe out all of his kind. Fantasy thriller, with Hayden Christensen. **9.00** Die Hard (1988) **11.40** Slither (2006)

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Film Choices

MONDAY

I Now Pronounce You Chuck & Larry, ITV1, 10.35pm

A fireman asks a male colleague to pretend to marry him to get round a hitch with his late wife's life insurance policy. Their plan is thrown off course when an overzealous city official begins to doubt the pair's relationship is genuine, and decides to conduct an investigation. Comedy, starring Adam Sandler, Kevin James, Steve Buscemi, Jessica Biel, Dan Aykroyd, Ving Rhames, Nicholas Turturro and Richard Chamberlain. (2007)

TUESDAY

The Unbearable Lightness of Being, BBC1, 11.35pm

A successful surgeon leads a carefree life in 1960s Czechoslovakia, and pursues complicated romances with two women – a Bohemian artist and a bookish small-town woman. Their lives are thrown into chaos when the country faces invasion by Society forces. Drama based on Milan Kundera's novel, starring Daniel Day-Lewis, Juliette Binoche, Lena Olin, Derek de Lint, Erland Josephson, Pavel Landovsky, Stellan Skarsgard, Pascale Kalensky. (1988)

WEDNESDAY

The Santa Suit, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A greedy executive hires men dressed as Santa Claus to sell his company's merchandise, but the real Father Christmas takes exception to being exploited and casts a spell that turns the businessman into one of the impersonators. As he plays the part of Santa, he acquires some much-needed festive spirit. Comedy, starring Kevin Sorbo and Jodie Dowdall. (2010)

Last Chance Harvey, Thursday, BBC2, 9pm

THURSDAY

Last Chance Harvey, BBC2, 9pm

A miserable New Yorker travels to London for his estranged daughter's wedding, but is devastated to find his ex-wife's new husband is to give the bride away instead of him. While trying to return home, he bumps into a woman feeling equally unfulfilled in her life, and their fledgling romance inspires them both to face up to their problems. Romantic drama, with Dustin Hoffman, Emma Thompson, Eileen Atkins, Kathy Baker, Liane Balaban, James Brolin, Richard Schiff, Wendy Mae Brown. (2008)

FRIDAY

Mistletoe Over Manhattan, Channel 5, 3.10pm

Santa Claus' wife goes to New York to perform a Christmas miracle and give her husband fresh inspiration. She befriends a cop who is in the midst of a divorce and offers to become a nanny to his children. She then discovers he still loves his wife, and tries to find a way to bring them back together. Christmas fantasy, starring Tricia Helfer and Greg Bryk. (2011)

Pick of the Week

Our sporting heroes get their just rewards

Whenever the show is broadcast, fans know that Christmas is just around the corner – but who will be celebrating the festive season with a shiny new trophy on the mantelpiece as well as a turkey in the oven?

The big question this year, of course, isn't who will win the main prize, but who won't.

It's been such an extraordinary period for British sport that there will be some massive names who won't even make it to the shortlist when, in other years, they might have been expected to walk away with the trophy.

For a start, Olympic gold medallists Charlotte Dujardin, Greg Rutherford, Victoria Pendleton, Laura Trott and Alistair Brownlee, and Europe's Ryder Cup hero Ian Poulter, have not made the final 12.

After becoming the first Brit to win a Grand Slam event for decades, not to mention his Olympic medals in the men's singles and mixed doubles, you might expect Andy Murray to be a shoe-in.

But then there's Bradley Wiggins to consider. He's not only our first-ever winner of the Tour de France, he also won gold at the Games and is the current favourite to triumph again here.

Athletes Mo Farah and Jessica Ennis are also in the running (no pun intended), while Ben Ainslie's achievement in becoming the Olympics' most decorated sailor is recognised.

Also making the shortlist are rower Katharine Grainger, boxer Nicola Adams, Wiggins' cycling team mate Chris Hoy, golfer Rory McIlroy and Paralympians David Weir, Ellie Simmons and Sarah Storey.

At least last year's accusations of sexism, which came after no women made the shortlist, can't be levelled at the Beeb this time.

Not only are there lots of females in the running for the main prize, how the nominees are decided has been changed too.

This time, a panel comprised of various BBC executives and presenters, newspaper sports editors, former nominees (this year's are Steve Redgrave, Tanni Grey Thompson and Denise Lewis) and Sue Campbell, chair of UK Sport, has been put together to come up with 12 worthy names.

The panel will also choose the 1st, 2nd and 3rd places for the Team of the Year, Overseas Personality of the Year and Coach of the Year awards. Other awards on the night will again be Young Sports Personality of the Year and Unsung Hero, which will continue to be decided by the existing specialist panel system and the Lifetime Achievement and Helen Rollason Awards, which will be decided by the Board of BBC Sport.

Barbara Slater, director BBC sport, says: "This year's sports personality of the year will be a celebration of what has been a truly unique year for sport in the UK. We are incredibly proud to be hosting the sporting grand finale for such a remarkable year."

Sue Barker, Gary Lineker and Clare Balding (whose own star rose thanks to her outstanding presenting skills during the BBC's coverage of the Olympics and Channel 4's hosting of the Paralympics) are the hosts.

And no matter what happens, next year's event is going to have a lot to live up to.

Sports Personality of the Year 2012, Sunday, BBC1, 7.30pm

Best of the Rest

Monday

Britain's Secret Terror Squad: Panorama

BBC1, 9pm

It seems that these days, there's nary a day goes by without some thrilling drama or other focusing on the cloak-and-dagger lives of people within the shady world of counter-terrorism. But just how grounded in reality are they? The answer is, generally, not very – yet 40 years ago, a unit existed which is far stranger than fiction, and ten times as shocking. For two years in the early 1970s, the British Army ran an undercover squad that operated outside the law, with orders to shoot terrorists on sight. They believe it saved lives, but in this documentary, reporter John Ware uncovers evidence that the unit may also have killed innocent civilians.

Bad Santas

Channel 4, 9pm

If you thought that all it took to be a Santa was a red suit and a beard, this two-part documentary should make you think again. It follows a group of unemployed men in their fifties, who are looking to make a fresh start by enrolling in one of the UK's most successful Santa schools (yes, apparently there is more than one.) Under the watchful eye of James Lovell, Managing Director of the intriguingly named Ministry of Fun, the men will have to pass a series of challenges, but how many of the Santa students will graduate to a grotto of their own?

Tuesday

Inside Guinness World Records

ITV1, 8pm

It's 40 years since the much-missed Roy Castle first presented Record Breakers, the BBC TV kids' show which captured the imaginations of millions. Whether it was the sight of him and a few dozen extras tap-dancing around the courtyard to BBC TV centre while Norris McWhirter looked on, or his reports on world records, for two decades Roy piqued the interest of many, and also helped boost sales of The Guinness Book of Records. Now the conclusion of this documentary provides a close access perspective on what drives the extraordinary and colourful characters that hold World Records. They include Wilma Conner, the oldest competitive female bodybuilder, and Tom Lackey, the oldest aerobatic wing walker.

Wednesday

The Christmas No 1 Story

BBC2, 9pm

In Britain, predicting what will be at the top of the charts on December 25 has become a festive tradition up there with trimming the tree, singing carols and moaning about how early the supermarkets start hawking their seasonal wares. But just why has that number one slot become so important, and what do the chart-toppers of Christmas past tell us about the tastes of the Great British record-buying public? That's what this documentary aims to find out, as it traces the story of the Christmas number one, from Harry Belafonte, to last year's single by the Military Wives, taking in everyone from the Beatles to Benny Hill along the way.

The Twins Who Share a Body

Channel 4, 10pm

Indian twins Sohna and Mohna are two of the world's most incredible children – but their story isn't an easy one to hear. They're celebrating their ninth birthday; however that in itself is an amazing achievement, as the siblings share just one body. Their condition (known as dicephalic parapagus conjoined twins) affects only one in a million, and so this documentary questions just how they manage to live a fulfilled life when they are two conscious beings in one body. Meanwhile, doctors desperately try to find out whether the twins will always be just one body, or if it would be possible for them to be separated and one life sacrificed.

Text Santa, Friday, ITV1, 8pm

Thursday

Young Apprentice

BBC1, 8pm

It's been eight weeks since the latest batch of budding business brains first set foot in Alan Sugar's legendary boardroom, and every challenge they have undertaken has been building up to this point. The hopefuls have been dropping like flies, and after last week's double-firing, which followed a festival-based task in which the two teams of three were challenged to flog products at open-air world music event Womad, there are now just four of the original 12 contestants remaining. Let's hope they have their CVs in order, because there's everything – including a £25,000 investment in their business – to play for in this final episode.

Friday

Text Santa

ITV1, 8pm

The BBC is proud of Children in Need, but ITV isn't shoddy in the telethon stakes either. Okay, so the broadcaster hasn't had one that's run for as long as the BBC has, but in Text Santa, it's found a format that could match it. Last year it made its debut, raising more than £4million for six charities. This year, it's hoped that total will be surpassed, with Age UK, Anthony Nolan, Carers UK, Marie Curie Cancer Care, Together for Short Lives and Whizz-Kidz all set to benefit. Ant & Dec, Phillip Schofield, Holly Willoughby, Christine Bleakley and Paddy McGuinness will all be on hand to introduce star acts and sketches featuring famous faces and TV shows.

QI

BBC2, 10pm

One of Danny Baker's greatest strengths, aside from being a fine DJ, is his ability to pep up panel games such as Shooting Stars, Have I Got News For You, and this show. Being a font of all knowledge, the 55-year-old Londoner could even give Stephen Fry a run for his money in the trivia stakes, but how will he fare in this festive edition of the engaging quiz? Now there's a chance to find out as he joins Sarah Millican, Phill Jupitus and regular panellist Alan Davies.

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What's On!

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20	■	18	■	■	13	■	■	9	■	19 A	■	2
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9	24	17	■	■	■	16	■	■	7	12	15	10
18	■	5	■	21	10	10	1	■	■	8	■	19
■	21	10	24	24	■	1	■	24	9	3	19	24
■	■	■	■	9	■	12	■	9	■	■	■	■
19	7	6	10	23	■	5	■	7	20	22	4	■
21	■	12	■	■	7	20	16	10	■	9	■	22
21	20	24	6	■	■	16	■	■	■	19	17	9
10	■	24	■	22	4	10	19	8	10	16	■	18
7	■	10	■	19	■	■	12	■	■	7	■	1
7	13	16	12	8	15	10	16	■	25	10	16	3

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
C	I	H	F	V	L	W	B	E	X	Q	G	D
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
R	U	K	Z	N	Y	P	O	M	J	T	A	S

1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
5	18
6	19 A
7	20
8	21
9	22 C
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26

ALL YOUR PUZZLE NEEDS IN ONE HANDY APP!

Seven great games in one!

CRYPTIC CROSSWORDS
QUICK CROSSWORDS
CODEWORD SUDOKU
WORD PUZZLER
WORD SEARCH
NUMBER CRUNCH

SEARCH: DAILY EXPRESS PUZZLES On the iPhone, iPod Touch & iPad

SEVEN GREAT GAMES IN ONE! SEARCH: DAILY EXPRESS PUZZLES

ALL YOUR PUZZLE NEEDS IN ONE HANDY APP!

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:

Across

6. Sea mail going astray causes uneasiness (7)
7. Possibly loves to work out crossword clues (5)
9. Agencies that inform me before help is returned (5)
10. Possibly train as a mechanic (7)
12. Hostility to dogs, for example? (3,8)
14. A procession of empty protest (6,5)
18. Is the parson shortly back on form? (7)
19. An all-round measure (5)
21. It gets wetter as it dries (5)
22. Have a flying start? (4,3)

Down

1. It goes on record (5)
2. Figure a girl is showing ill-will (6)
3. Finally refuse custom (3)
4. If run down they will pick you up (6)
5. A flighty individual (7)
8. He's at liberty to be a privileged citizen (7)
11. Continue to flirt? (5,2)
13. Seasonal blazer (4-3)
15. Inquire inside to obtain an engine part (6)
16. The number increases in emergencies (6)
17. People in office? (5)
20. Don't allow a section to be played (3)

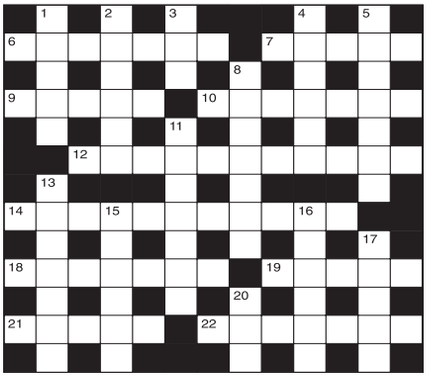
Quick Clues:

Across

6. Conveyance (7)
7. Extreme (5)
9. Blemish (5)
10. Liberate (7)
12. Swindle (11)
14. Coiffeur (11)
18. Excursionist (7)
19. Spurious (5)
21. Deficient (5)
22. Get (7)

Down

1. Kingly (5)
2. Victor (6)
3. Former (3)
4. Contend (6)
5. Entreat (7)
8. Petition (7)
11. Fall out (7)
13. Vagary (7)
15. Fret (6)
16. Departure (6)
17. Haste (5)
20. Deed (3)



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Clothes-mad; 7 Ozone; 8 Swallow; 10 Cremated; 11 Evil; 13 Shrimp; 15 Scarab; 17 Nick; 18 Research; 21 Several; 22 Mason; 23 Archimedes. Down: 1 Close; 2 Open arms; 3 Hasten; 4 Star; 5 All over; 6 Torch songs; 9 Well behind; 12 Screamed; 14 Recover; 16 Bedlam; 19 Rests; 20 Arch. QUICK - Across: 1 Out-of-doors; 7 Alder; 8 Mastiff; 10 Farewell; 11 Envy; 13 Throng; 15 Redden; 17 Hold; 18 Catacomb; 21 Diploma; 22 Arena; 23 Deportment. Down: 1 Order; 2 Throwing; 3 Female; 4 Oust; 5 Reigned; 6 Far-fetched; 9 Flying-boat; 12 Separate; 14 Relapse; 16 Vacant; 19 Overt; 20 Solo.

Sudoku

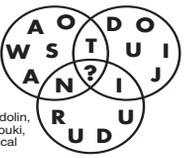
		4	6	7				5
	2		8			3		1
1					3		9	
2		3		1			5	
			3		6			2
	8			2				3
	9					5		7
6		1			5		2	
3				8	2	6		

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

3	7	8	1	4	2	9	5	6
9	6	1	8	7	5	4	3	2
4	5	2	3	6	9	1	7	8
6	4	9	5	2	7	3	8	1
5	2	3	4	8	1	6	9	7
8	1	7	9	3	6	2	4	5
1	9	4	6	5	8	7	2	3
2	3	5	7	1	4	8	6	9
7	8	6	2	9	3	5	1	4

Circlegram

Replace the question mark with a letter so that the letters within each circle can be arranged to form words on a common theme. What are the three words, and the letter represented by the question mark?



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION: The letter represented by the question mark is O. Mandolin, trombone, bouzouki, all types of musical instrument.

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QUICK CROSSWORDS
CODEWORD SUDOKU
WORD PUZZLER
WORD SEARCH
NUMBER CRUNCH

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On the iPhone, iPod Touch & iPad

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CHURCH HILL, HEDNESFORD
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www.churchhillvictoria.co.uk

Welcomes All

Friday 21st December
Vics Got Soul
Across the board Soul 60s to Y2K
Resident DJs Mel Ray, John Fowler and Rob Black.
Plus guest DJ's Sam Fisher & Gary Belcher
£3 on the door. 8pm til late

Saturday 22nd December
Andy Plimmer
Excellent Solo Singer
FREE ENTRY
New Year's Eve Tickets Now On Sale

Thursday Nights - Quiz Night
Sunday Nights - Cash Bingo
Function Room for Hire Free of Charge
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NEW SHOP IN TOWN
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E P Launch plus support
Free Entry

Sat 15th Dec MR TREBUS
Free Entry

Wed 19th Dec FREE POOL TABLE & DARTS
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homeofproperty.co.uk

The top property guide for Cannock, Penkridge, Heath Hayes, Rugeley, Hednesford, Great Wyrley and Burntwood

A spacious breakfast kitchen has ample storage in its many units

This detached in Lochalsh Grove is on the Coppice Farm Estate

Corner plot for home in a quiet cul-de-sac

A DETACHED house on a corner plot in a quiet cul-de-sac position in Willenhall is for sale priced at £215,000.

The property is in Lochalsh Grove on the Coppice Farm Estate, and comes with accommodation briefly comprising of reception hall, lounge, separate dining room, breakfast kitchen, laundry, guest cloakroom, four bedrooms, re-fitted en-suite shower room and bathroom.

It also benefits from gas central heating, double glazing, front garden with block paved driveway, integral garage and rear garden.

On the ground floor the lounge, 15ft 9in by 13ft 2in, has a wooden surround fireplace, marble hearth and inset, coal effect gas fire and double doors to the dinijng room which is 10ft 10in by 8ft 8in and has French doors to the rear garden.

Inset

The breakfast kitchen, 10ft 9in by 11ft, has a range of fitted base and wall cupboards, work surfaces, inset stainless steel sink, display cabinets and gas cooker point.

The laundry room has an inset sink and plumbing for automatic washing machine and the cloakroom a WC and wash hand basin.

On the first floor bedroom one has an en suite with shower cubicle, WC and wash basin.

There are three further bedrooms and a family bathroom with panelled bath with mixer shower, WC and wash hand basin.

Outside is an extensive lawned front garden with borders and block paved driveway providing of road parking and access to a garage, with side access to the rear garden with patio area, lawn and borders.

Call Fraser Wood on 01922 627686 for more details.

The rear garden has lawn, patio and many shrubs

A focal point of the lounge is a gas fire with surround

Ask developer how it can sell your home

HOUSE-HUNTERS who dream of making a quick and easy move from their current property are being offered a fantastic opportunity to secure their ideal home by Taylor Wimpey North Midlands.

The leading housebuilder's fantastic part exchange scheme is available with selected plots across Staffordshire, Shropshire, the West Midlands and Warwickshire – and makes moving upmarket straightforward and hassle-free.

Alternatively, under easymover, purchasers can take their pick from a choice of family-size homes across the region and then let Taylor Wimpey help find a buyer for their current property in just a few weeks.

Carl Cooke, regional sales and marketing director for Taylor Wimpey, says: "The hassle involved in selling a home cannot be underestimated – keeping it perfectly tidy and ready for viewings, the emotional stress of negotiating prices, offers falling through at the last minute – and it's a rollercoaster that most people are glad to get off.

"Unfortunately for many homeowners, this stressful state of affairs can last for far too long, with homes often remaining unsold for several months.

"However, there is an easier way to move, through our stress-free part exchange and easymover schemes. So if you want to find out how we can help you step up the property ladder to the home of your dreams, all you have to do is Ask Taylor Wimpey!"

With part exchange Taylor Wimpey agrees a price for the customer's existing property based on the average of independent valuations. With the housebuilder as their guaranteed buyer, they can then relax in their current home until their brand new place is ready to move into.

Alternatively, with easymover, Taylor Wimpey finds a buyer for the customer's current property in an average of just five weeks, although many see their home sold within a fortnight – plus the housebuilder can even pay the estate agency fees.

Timescale

Ninety per cent of properties are sold successfully through the initiative, and the typical timescale from sale to exchange of contracts is just 10 weeks.

Incentives can be tailored to customers' individual circumstances and are subject to availability, with full details, including terms and conditions, available by visiting the Sales Centre or contacting the Sales Executive at any of the following developments:

STAFFORDSHIRE

Levett Grange, Rugeley. Tel: 0845 072 9858; Bluebell Croft, Kidsgrove. Tel: 0845 026 5519; The Pinnacle, Stoke-on-Trent.

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Rugeley and Surrounding areas 01889 620 006

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PAUL CARR
Estate Agents

Bagots View, Abbots Bromley

- Reduced by £20,000
- Village Location
- Detached Family Home
- Four Bedrooms
- Master with En-suite
- Breakfast Kitchen
- Dining Room & Lounge
- No Chain

£249,950

Green Lane, Rugeley

- Detached House
- Three Bedrooms
- Extended To Rear
- Lounge & Dining Room
- Kitchen & Play Room
- DG & GCH
- Off Road Parking
- No Chain

£149,950

chase independent onthemove

01889 582233

Chichester Close, Rugeley

- A Four Bedroom Detached Property
- Dining Room
- Kitchen
- Utility
- Master Bedroom with Ensuite
- Three Further Bedrooms
- Family Bathroom
- Gardens Front and Rear

£215,000

Lodge Road, Brereton, Rugeley

- Reduced For A Quick Sale
- Three Bedrooms
- Extended Semi
- Garage & Driveway
- Breakfast Kitchen
- No Chain
- Ideal Family Home
- Call Now To View

£130,000

Chichester Close, Rugeley

- Detached Family Home
- Four Bedrooms
- Two En-suite Bedrooms
- Lounge & Dining Room
- Breakfast Kitchen
- Utility & Guest WC
- Garage & Driveway
- Competitively Priced

£205,000

Coal Pit Lane, Brereton

- Detached Bungalow
- Three Bedrooms
- Pleasant Position
- In Need of Modernisation
- No Upward Chain
- Garage & Driveway
- Good Sized Rear Garden
- Viewing by Appointment

£179,950

The Beeches, Rugeley

- Detached Bungalow
- Three Bedrooms
- Presented to a High Standard
- Separate Dining Room
- GCH & DG
- Garage & Ample Driveway
- Low Maintenance Rear Garden
- Viewing Essential

£179,950

Huntsmans Walk, Etchinghill

- Three Bed Link Detached
- Well Presented
- Popular Location
- Garage & Driveway
- Conservatory
- Cul-de-sac Position
- GCH & DG
- No Upward Chain

£149,950

Upton Place, Rugeley

- Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Lounge Diner
- Family Bathroom
- Gas Central Heating
- Garage & Driveway
- Pleasant Gardens
- No Upward Chain

£136,000

Cherry Tree Road, Rugeley

- REDUCED
- 3 Bed Detached Bungalow
- Popular Location
- Ideal Investment Opportunity
- Conservatory
- Front & Rear Gardens
- No Upward Chain
- In Need of Modernisation

£119,950

Sharnbrook Drive, Rugeley

- Extended Semi Detached
- Three Bedrooms
- Lounge Diner
- Kitchen & Utility
- Garage & Driveway
- Low Maintenance Rear Garden
- Ideal Family Home
- Popular Location

£116,950

Chase Independent would like to wish all our customers a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Opening hours: Offices will close at 12pm on Friday 21st December and re-open at 9.30am on Thursday 3rd January.

Newman Grove, Rugeley

- Three Bedrooms
- Lounge
- Kitchen Diner
- Family Bathroom
- Gas Central Heating
- Off Road Parking
- No Chain
- Ideal Investment Purchase

£100,000

Lower Birches Way, Rugeley

- Two Bedroom Property
- Very Well Presented
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- GCH & DG
- Allocated Parking
- Enclosed Rear Garden
- Sorry No DSS

£550 PCM

Wat Tyler Close, Rugeley

- REDUCED
- Newly Refurbished
- 3 Bed End Terraced House
- Kitchen & Separate Diner
- Front & Rear Gardens
- GCH & DG
- Parking to Rear
- Sorry No DSS

£550 PCM

Jubilee Street, Rugeley

- Three Bedrooms
- Lounge
- Kitchen Diner
- Gardens
- DG & GCH
- Well Presented
- Popular Location
- Sorry No DSS

£525 PCM

Eaton Drive, Rugeley

- Second Floor Apartment
- Modern, Well Presented
- Two Bedrooms
- Open Plan Lounge/Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- GCH & DG
- Allocated Parking
- Sorry No DSS

£500 PCM

Heron Street, Rugeley

- Ground Floor Maisonette
- Two Bedrooms
- Kitchen
- Lounge Diner
- DG and Electric Heating
- Off Road Parking
- Sorry No DSS

£450 PCM

Ingathorpe Road, Rugeley

- New Build
- Coach House Apartment
- 1 Bedroom
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Bathroom
- GCH & DG
- Allocated Parking

£395 PCM

Lichfield Street, Rugeley

- Second Floor Flat
- Town Centre Location
- Lounge
- Kitchen/Diner
- One Bedroom
- Bathroom
- Off Road Parking
- SORRY NO DSS

REDUCED £360 PCM

follow us ChaseIndependent

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AUCTION
FEBRUARY 2013

ENTRIES INVITED

NEW PRICE

18 FRENSHAM CLOSE, CHESLYN HAY
THREE BEDROOMED SEMI DETACHED HOUSE
Located In Popular Cul-de-sac

- Entrance lobby
- Lounge/dining area
- Kitchen
- Landing
- Three bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Carport
- Gardens
- Predominantly double glazed
- Gas fired central heating
- No chain

£115,000 FREEHOLD

4 EDWARDS CROFT, CANNOCK
WELL EQUIPPED TWO BEDROOMED DETACHED BUNGALOW
Located In Private Drive Convenient For Facilities

- Reception hall
- Lounge
- Dining kitchen
- Two bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Garage
- Well stocked gardens
- Gas fired central heating
- Fully double glazed
- Intruder alarm
- Inspection highly recommended

£149,950 FREEHOLD

2 HAYES WAY, HEATH HAYES
WELL EQUIPPED FOUR BEDROOMED DETACHED FAMILY HOUSE
Occupying Corner Plot Gardens Convenient For Local Facilities

- Canopy porch
- Reception hall
- Cloakroom with wc
- Lounge
- Dining room
- Double glazed conservatory
- Refitted kitchen
- Utility room
- Landing
- Four bedrooms
- En-suite shower room
- Refitted family bathroom
- Integral garage
- Carport
- Corner plot well stocked gardens
- Fully double glazed
- Gas fired central heating
- Inspection recommended

£219,950 FREEHOLD

HEATHFIELD HOUSE
SANDY LANE, CANNOCK, WS11 1RF

INDIVIDUAL ARCHITECT DESIGNED FIVE BEDROOMED DETACHED FAMILY RESIDENCE LOCATED IN PRIME SHOAL HILL AREA OF THE TOWN

PRICE - £895,000
FREEHOLD

CRAIG WATTS HOMES
Established 1984

COPELAND HOUSE, SAREDON LANE, GREAT SAREDON

WELL EQUIPPED IMPROVED AND EXTENDED FIVE BEDROOMED FAMILY RESIDENCE
Located In Sought After Rural Hamlet Of Great Saredon With Views Over Open Farmland To Front And Rear

- Central reception hall
- Lounge/family room
- Sitting room
- Dining room with bar area
- Dining kitchen
- Inner hall
- Guests cloakroom with wc
- Utility room
- Central galleried landing
- Five bedrooms
- Family bathroom
- En-suite bathroom
- En-suite shower room
- Fully triple glazed
- Solid fuel central heating
- Landscaped gardens
- Detached double width garage (currently under construction)
- Extensive off road parking with secure electric gated access

£550,000 FREEHOLD

18 KING CUP DRIVE, HUNTINGTON
WELL EQUIPPED FOUR BEDROOMED MEWS HOUSE
Offering Flexible Accommodation On Three Storeys
Located In Cul-de-sac

- Entrance hall
- Cloakroom with wc
- Kitchen/dining/family room
- Landing (1st floor)
- Lounge (1st floor)
- Two bedrooms (1st floor)
- Bathroom (1st floor)
- Landing (2nd floor)
- Two bedrooms (2nd floor)
- En-suite shower room
- Carport
- Gardens
- Gas fired central heating
- Fully double glazed
- Inspection recommended

£186,950 FREEHOLD

5 RAILWAY VIEW, HEDNESFORD
WELL EQUIPPED SEMI DETACHED HOUSE
Offering Four Bedroomed Accommodation On Three Floors
Convenient For Facilities At Hednesford Town Centre

- Canopy porch
- Reception hall
- Cloakroom with wc
- Lounge
- Dining room
- Fitted kitchen
- Landing
- Three first floor bedrooms
- First floor family bathroom
- Landing
- Second floor master bedroom
- En-suite shower room
- Garage
- Well stocked gardens
- Gas central heating
- Fully double glazed
- Inspection highly recommended

£169,950 FREEHOLD

OAKFIELD HOUSE
17 SANDY LANE, CANNOCK

SUPERBLY APPOINTED INDIVIDUALLY DESIGNED SPACIOUS DETACHED FAMILY RESIDENCE OFFERING FLEXIBLE ACCOMMODATION INCORPORATING UP TO SEVEN DOUBLE BEDROOMS WITH SIX EN-SUITES BUILT IN 2007 TO AN EXCEPTIONALLY HIGH STANDARD LOCATED IN CANNOCKS PRIME RESIDENTIAL AREA CLOSE TO THE SHOAL HILL DISTRICT OF CANNOCK CHASE

Ground Floor
- Impressive Vestibule
- Central Reception Hall
- Cloakroom
- Lounge
- Dining Room
- Study
- Double Glazed Conservatory
- Luxury Breakfast Kitchen
- Inner Hall
- Bedroom Seven
- En-Suite Shower Room
- Utility Room

First Floor
- Central Galleried Landing
- Four Double Bedrooms
- Four En-Suite Bathrooms

Second Floor
- Landing
- Two Double Bedrooms
- En-Suite Shower Room

Outside & General
- Integral Double Garage
- Landscaped Grounds
- Fully Double Glazed
- Gas Fired Central Heating
- Under Floor Heating To Ground Floor
- Solar Hot Water System
- Intruder Alarm
- CCTV
- Surround Sound System
- Central Vacuum System
- Integrated Digital Network

No Chain
Inspection Essential To Fully Appreciate This Outstanding Residence

PRICE : £975,000 : FREEHOLD

NO CHAIN

12 HATHERTON CROFT, CANNOCK
WELL EQUIPPED FOUR BEDROOMED DETACHED FAMILY RESIDENCE
Located In Cul-de-sac In A Much Sought After Residential Area Of The Town

- Canopy porch
- Reception hall
- Cloakroom with wc
- Lounge
- Dining room
- Breakfast kitchen
- Double glazed conservatory
- Utility room
- Landing
- Four bedrooms
- En-suite shower room
- Family bathroom
- Built-on double width garage
- Well stocked gardens
- Gas fired central heating
- All windows double glazed
- Intruder alarm
- Inspection highly recommended

£299,950 FREEHOLD

FISHERS FARM GARDEN CENTRE, UPPER LANDYWOOD LANE, CHESLYN HAY

EXTENDED FOUR BEDROOMED DETACHED BUNGALOW WITH ORNAMENTAL GARDENS AND GARDEN CENTRE

- Living accommodation
- Central reception hall
- Inner hall
- Lounge/dining area
- Fitted breakfast kitchen
- Three double bedrooms (ground floor)
- Two en-suite shower rooms
- Family bathroom
- Games/family/snooker room
- Landing
- Bedroom four (first floor)
- Built-on double width garage
- Ornamental gardens
- In and out drive
- Gas (LPG) central heating
- Fully double glazed
- Intruder alarm
- Garden Centre
- Established business
- Densely populated residential area
- Modern greenhouse/retail area
- Ample parking/hardstanding/open storage

£865,000 FREEHOLD (Plus Stock At Valuation)

1 SHOAL HILL CLOSE, CANNOCK

WELL EQUIPPED DETACHED FAMILY RESIDENCE
Located In A Prime Residential Area Of The Town Close To The Shoal Hill District Of Cannock Chase

- Enclosed porch
- Reception hall
- Cloakroom with wc
- Lounge
- Dining room
- Double glazed conservatory
- Breakfast kitchen
- Utility room
- Landing
- Four bedrooms
- En-suite shower room
- Family bathroom
- Built-on double width garage
- Extensive off road parking
- Well stocked private rear gardens
- Fully double glazed
- Gas central heating
- Long fore garden
- Inspection highly recommended

£369,950 FREEHOLD

NO CHAIN

3 MELROSE DRIVE, HEDNESFORD
TWO BEDROOMED SEMI DETACHED BUNGALOW
Located In Popular Cul-de-sac

- Entrance lobby
- Lounge
- Dining area
- Kitchen
- Inner hall
- Two bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Garage
- Gardens
- Gas fired central heating
- Fully double glazed
- No chain

£110,000 FREEHOLD

30 HOBBY WAY, HEATH HAYES
WELL EQUIPPED TWO BEDROOMED FIRST FLOOR APARTMENT
Located In Popular Position Conveniently Situated For Facilities

- Communal hall, stairs & landing
- Reception hall
- L-shaped lounge/kitchen area
- Two double bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Allocated Parking Space
- Communal grounds
- Fully double glazed
- Economy 7electric heating
- Security phone system
- Intruder alarm
- Inspection highly recommended

£115,000

NO CHAIN

5 HOLLINGSWORTH MEWS, BRIDGTOWN
WELL EQUIPPED MID TERRACED TWO BEDROOMED HOUSE

- Reception hall
- Cloakroom with wc
- Lounge
- Fitted kitchen
- Landing
- Two bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Gardens
- Allocated parking space
- Gas fired central heating
- Fully double glazed
- No chain
- Inspection recommended

£124,950 FREEHOLD

RICS

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8 RAILWAY STREET, CANNOCK

WELL EQUIPPED THREE BEDROOMED SEMI DETACHED HOUSE Originally Built In The Popular Inter War Period Convenient For Facilities At The Town Centre

- Reception hall
- Lounge
- Dining area
- Refitted kitchen
- Landing
- Three Bedrooms
- Refitted shower room
- Gardens
- Garage space
- Gas fired central heating
- Fully double glazed
- Inspection recommended

£125,000 FREEHOLD

11 HIGHFIELDS PARK, CHESLYN HAY

WELL EQUIPPED FOUR BEDROOMED DETACHED FAMILY RESIDENCE Occupying Corner Plot Gardens In A Popular Cul-de-sac In This Much Sought After South Staffordshire Village

- Reception hall
- Cloakroom with wc
- Lounge
- Dining room
- Study
- Double glazed conservatory
- Fitted breakfast kitchen
- Utility room
- Landing
- Four bedrooms
- En-suite shower room
- Family bathroom
- Corner plot well stocked gardens
- Detached double width garage
- Gas fired central heating
- Fully double glazed
- Intruder alarm & cctv system
- Inspection highly recommended

£335,000 FREEHOLD

SPARBRIDGE CLOSE (OFF ELESMERE RD) CANNOCK WS11 1PJ

A SELECT DEVELOPMENT OF ATTRACTIVE WELL DESIGNED EXCEPTIONALLY WELL EQUIPPED THREE BEDROOMED DETACHED HOUSES LOCATED IN POPULAR RESIDENTIAL AREA

Each property includes:

- Canopy porch
- Reception hall
- Lounge
- Well equipped dining kitchen
- Cloakroom with WC
- Landing
- Three bedrooms
- En suite shower room
- Excellent family bathroom
- Garage
- Off road parking
- Gardens
- Fully double glazed
- Gas fired central heating
- LABC 10 YEAR Build Warrantee
- All Floor Coverings Included

Address	Property Type	Bedrooms	Tenure	Price	Availability
1 Sparbridge Close	Detached House	3	Freehold	£158,000	Available
2 Sparbridge Close	Detached House	3	Freehold	£158,000	Available
3 Sparbridge Close	Detached House	3	Freehold	£158,000	Available

THE DELL, 62 NEWLANDS LANE, HEATH HAYES

A SUPERBLY APPOINTED DETACHED FAMILY RESIDENCE OCCUPYING GROUNDS EXTENDING TO 0.4 ACRES OR THEREABOUTS Located In Popular Residential Area Convenient For Facilities Locally

- Canopy porch
- Central reception hall
- Study
- Lounge
- Dining room
- UPVC double glazed conservatory
- Luxury breakfast kitchen
- Utility room
- Refitted luxury shower room
- Galleried landing
- Four double bedrooms
- Refitted luxury Jack & Jill family bathroom
- Gas central heating
- Fully double glazed
- Detached double width garage
- Extensive landscaped gardens
- CCTV security system
- Intruder alarm
- Inspection essential to fully appreciate this luxury property

£487,500 FREEHOLD

3 ROWAN CROFT, PRICE STREET, CANNOCK

WELL EQUIPPED GROUND FLOOR APARTMENT Located In Purpose Built Housing Development Which Is Conveniently Located For Cannock Town Centre

- Entrance hall
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Double bedroom
- Bathroom
- Warden call system/security phone system
- Communal halls & access areas
- Communal reception/sitting areas
- Communal laundry/dryer facilities
- Communal grounds
- Economy 7 electric heating
- Predominantly double glazed
- Inspection highly recommended

£65,950 100% SHARE

AWAITING PHOTO

11 SQUIRREL CLOSE, HUNTINGTON

IMPROVED WELL EQUIPPED THREE BEDROOMED DETACHED HOUSE Located In Popular Cul-de-sac

- Reception hall
- Cloakroom with wc
- Lounge
- Dining room
- Double glazed conservatory
- Kitchen
- Landing
- Three bedrooms
- En-suite shower room
- Family bathroom
- Integral garage
- Gardens
- Gas fired central heating
- Fully double glazed
- Intruder alarm
- Inspection highly recommended

£179,950 FREEHOLD

24 LANDYWOOD GREEN, CHESLYN HAY

WELL EQUIPPED THREE BEDROOMED DETACHED HOUSE LOCATED IN POPULAR CUL-DE-SAC IN THIS MUCH SOUGHT AFTER SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE VILLAGE

- Canopy porch
- Reception hall
- Lounge/dining area
- Kitchen
- Landing
- THree bedrooms
- En-suite shower room
- Bathroom
- Integral garage
- Gardens
- Fully double glazed
- Gas central heating
- Intruder alarm
- Inspection highly recommended

£169,950 FREEHOLD

5 MEADWAY CLOSE, HEDNESFORD

CONSIDERABLY IMPROVED WELL EQUIPPED INDIVIDUALLY DESIGNED DETACHED DORMER STYLE FAMILY HOUSE Located In Popular Quiet Cul-de-sac Convenient For Wide Range Of Facilities

- Canopy porch
- Central reception hall
- Cloakroom with wc
- Lounge
- Dining/family room/ fitted kitchen
- Central galleried landing
- Three double bedrooms
- Refitted en-suite shower room
- Refitted bathroom
- Integral garage
- Well stocked gardens
- Gas fired central heating
- Fully double glazed
- Inspection highly recommended

£320,000 FREEHOLD

13 PENKRIDGE COURT, NEW PENKRIDGE ROAD, CANNOCK

WELL EQUIPPED FIRST FLOOR APARTMENT Located In Popular Development Convenient For Facilities At The Town Centre

- Communal hall, stairs & landing
- Reception hall
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Bedroom
- Bathroom
- Allocated parking space
- Communal grounds
- Fully double glazed
- Gas central heating
- Security phone system
- No chain
- Inspection recommended

£89,950

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The Richmond - Plot 21	4 Bedrooms	Reserved	FREEHOLD	Reserved
The Richmond - Plot 22	4 Bedrooms	Reserved	FREEHOLD	Reserved

3 UPPER LANDYWOOD LANE, CHESLYN HAY

INDIVIDUALLY DESIGNED FIVE BEDROOMED DETACHED FAMILY HOUSE Located In Private Drive In Popular Residential Area In This Much Sought After South Staffordshire Village

- Enclosed porch
- Reception hall
- Cloakroom with wc
- Lounge
- Dining/sitting room
- Breakfast kitchen
- Utility room
- Central galleried landing
- Five bedrooms
- Two en-suite shower rooms
- Family bathroom
- Integral double width garage
- Gardens
- Gas fired central heating
- Fully double glazed
- Intruder alarm
- No chain
- Inspection recommended

£350,000 FREEHOLD

GANLLWYD COTTAGE, PARKSIDE LANE, HATHERTON, CANNOCK

IMPROVED WELL EQUIPPED DETACHED COTTAGE OCCUPYING WELL STOCKED GROUNDS Located In Much Sought After Rural Greenbelt Position (Close To Cannock Chase Which Is Noted For Its Outstanding Natural Beauty) And Yet Within Easy Reach Of Facilities At Cannock Centre

- Enclosed porch
- Reception hall
- Lounge
- Dining room
- Refitted dining kitchen
- Utility room
- Cloakroom with wc
- Rear entrance lobby/utility/boot room
- Central galleried landing
- Three double bedrooms
- En-suite shower room
- Family bathroom
- Detached double width garage
- Extensive off road parking
- Well stocked gardens
- Oil fired central heating
- Predominantly double glazed
- Internal inspection essential

£399,950 FREEHOLD

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5 FOUNTAIN COURT, TEDDESLEY
SPACIOUS WELL EQUIPPED TWO BEDROOMED SINGLE STOREY BARN CONVERSION WITH ENCLOSED REAR TERRACE
Located On The Picturesque Rural Estate Of Teddesley Park

- Dining kitchen
- Inner hall
- Dining area
- Lounge
- Two bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Enclosed rear terrace
- Fully double glazed
- Oil fired central heating
- Landscaped communal grounds
- Communal parking areas
- Sorry no pets, smokers or DSS

£640.00 pcm Plus Service Charge

5 TOWER ROAD, PYE GREEN, HEDNESFORD
TWO DOUBLE BEDROOMED SEMI DETACHED HOUSE
Located In Established Residential Area Close To Cannock Chase

- Entrance hall
- Lounge/dining room
- Refitted kitchen
- Side entrance lobby
- Utility
- Landing
- Two double bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Gardens
- Detached garage
- Predominantly double glazed
- Gas central heating
- Sorry no pets, DSS or smokers

£500.00 pcm

42 NAPIER ROAD, BEECHDALE, WALSALL
WELL MAINTAINED FOUR BEDROOMED SEMI DETACHED HOUSE

- Enclosed porch
- Reception hall
- Sitting room
- Living room
- Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Separate WC
- Landing
- Four bedrooms
- Gardens
- Gas central heating
- Fully double glazed

£550.00 pcm

310 WOLVERHAMPTON ROAD, CANNOCK
TWO BEDROOMED SEMI DETACHED BUNGALOW
In Popular Area Convenient For Facilities At Cannock Town Centre

- Entrance lobby
- Lounge
- Inner hall
- Kitchen
- Two bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Gas central heating
- All windows double glazed
- Integral garage
- Gardens
- Sorry no pets, no smokers & no DSS allowed

£575.00 pcm

147C BROWNHILLS ROAD, NORTON CANES
WELL EQUIPPED THREE BEDROOMED DETACHED HOUSE

- Enclosed porch
- Reception hall
- Lounge
- Dining kitchen
- Conservatory
- Landing
- Three bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Gas central heating
- Double glazed
- Gardens
- Sorry no pets, DSS or smokers

£625.00 pcm

29B BRADBURY LANE, HEDNESFORD
SPACIOUS TWO BEDROOMED FIRST FLOOR FLAT
Located In Popular Residential Area

- Ground floor entrance lobby
- Entrance hall
- Lounge
- Refitted kitchen
- Two bedrooms
- Refitted bathroom
- Gas central heating
- All windows double glazed
- Off road parking
- Viewing recommended to appreciate this spacious property

£400.00 pcm

2 PETERSFIELD, CANNOCK
TWO BEDROOMED SEMI DETACHED HOUSE

- Reception hall
- Lounge
- Breakfast kitchen
- Side lobby/utility
- Landing
- Two double bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Gardens
- Gas central heating
- Predominantly double glazed
- Off road parking
- Sorry no pets, smokers or DSS

£525.00 pcm

2 SMITHY PLACE, TEDDESLEY PARK ESTATE, PENKRIDGE
WELL EQUIPPED SINGLE STOREY BARN CONVERSION
Situated In The Picturesque Rural Estate Of Teddesley Park

- Fitted dining kitchen
- Lounge
- Inner hall
- Two double bedrooms
- Family bathroom
- Oil fired central heating
- Fully double glazed
- Communal grounds and parking
- Sorry no pets, smokers or DSS allowed

£575.00 pcm Plus Service Charge

68 CHURCH STREET, CHADSMOOR
MID TERRACED HOUSE
Conveniently Located For Facilities At Chadsmoor Village Centre

- Sitting room
- Living room
- Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Landing
- Three bedrooms
- Fully double glazed
- Gas central heating
- Garden to rear
- Sorry no pets or smokers accepted

£475.00 pcm

164A HIGH STREET, CHASETOWN
SPACIOUS FIRST FLOOR APARTMENT
Situated Above The Chase Recreation Club Convenient For Local Facilities

- Entrance lobby
- Reception hall
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Two bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Allocated parking
- Fully double glazed
- Gas central heating
- Inspection recommended
- Sorry no smokers or pets allowed

£450.00 pcm

16 HAMILTON CLOSE, WIMBLEBURY
FURNISHED ONE BEDROOMED GROUND FLOOR FLAT

- Entrance lobby
- Lounge/kitchen area
- Bedroom
- Shower room
- Fully double glazed
- Economy seven electric heating
- Allocated parking
- Sorry no DSS, pets or smokers

£365.00 pcm FURNISHED

27 BOND WAY, HEDNESFORD
TWO BEDROOMED SEMI DETACHED HOUSE ON CORNER PLOT
Located In Popular Residential Area

- Entrance lobby
- Lounge
- Dining kitchen
- Landing
- Two bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Fully double glazed
- Gas central heating
- Corner plot gardens
- Off road parking
- Sorry no pets, smokers or DSS

£550.00 pcm

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Rugeley, Bridle Walk

A Four Bedroom Extended Family Home situated on a Large Corner Plot

- Gas Central Heating
- Mostly Double Glazed
- Large Family Bathroom
- Lounge
- Separate Dining Room
- Ground Floor Extension
- Rear Garden
- Kitchen
- Parking for Several Vehicles
- Four Bedrooms

£189,950

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Rugeley, Bedford Way
A Three Bedroom Mid Town House

- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- Quiet Location
- Parking to Rear
- Double Garage to Rear
- Ideal First Time Buyer Property

£115,000

Rugeley, Coppice Road
A recently re-furbished semi detached property on a residential estate close to the town centre of Rugeley

- Entrance Hall
- Through Lounge/Dining Room
- Breakfast Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Low maintenance front garden
- Off road parking for several vehicles

£86,500

Rugeley, Thompson Road
A Three Bedroomed Extended Family House

- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- Garage
- Lounge, Dining Room
- Quality Breakfast Kitchen
- Master Bedroom with En-Suite
- Ground Floor W.C.
- Family Bathroom
- No Upward Chain
- Must be Viewed to Appreciate

£175,000

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Rugeley, Catkin Walk
A Three Bedroom Link Detached House

- Gas central heating
- Dining kitchen
- Garage
- Double glazing
- Driveway
- Front and rear gardens

£119,950

Brereton, Priory Road
Attractive Semi Detached House

- Two Bedrooms
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Porch, Lounge
- Off Road Parking, Private Gardens
- Bathroom, Kitchen

£110,000

Rugeley, Burnthill Lane
A Four Bedroom Mid Terrace House

- Ground Floor Bathroom
- Gas Central Heating
- Partly Double Glazed
- Freehold
- Block Paved Driveway
- Fully Enclosed Rear Garden

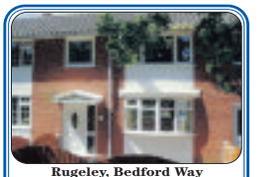
PRICE: £125,000

Rugeley, Lion Street

A compact, ground floor apartment located in a mature residential area close to the town centre of Rugeley

- Lounge
- Bedroom
- Kitchen
- Bathroom

£350 pcm



Rugeley, Bedford Way
An attractive three bedroom mid terrace property situated on popular residential estate close to Rugeley

- Entrance Hall
- Lounge
- Dining Room
- Kitchen
- Landing
- Three Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Gas Central Heating
- UPVC Double Glazing

£525 pcm

Rugeley, Finches Hill
An attractive two bedroom detached bungalow. The property has the benefit of central heating, double glazing, cooker, laminate flooring throughout

- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Two Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Garage
- Driveway

£600 pcm

OFT

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CHASE TERRACE
Shaw Drive

- 4 Bed Semi with Off Road Parking
- 2 Reception Rooms
- Conservatory
- Side Verandah/Utility
- Front & Rear gardens
- Garage
- Sorry No DHSS

£695 pcm

CANNOCK
Skipton Place

- 3 Bed Detached Bungalow
- Double Glazing & Gas Central Heating
- Entrance Hallway
- Lounge
- Dining Kitchen
- Family bathroom with Separate Shower Cubicle
- Front & Rear Garden
- Carport & Garage
- Sorry No DHSS

£650 pcm

CANNOCK
Leamington Close

- A well presented three bedroom semi detached family home
- Lounge, Dining Area, Kitchen, Conservatory
- Three Bedrooms,Family Bathroom
- Gas central heating and double glazing.
- Rear Garden and Off Road Parking
- SORRY NO DHSS

£650 pcm

CHASE TERRACE
Rugeley Road

- 3 Bed Semi with Garage
- Kitchen
- Lounge
- Conservatory
- Utility Area
- Shower Room
- Family Bathroom
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Sorry No DHSS

£625 pcm

HEATH HAYES
Hednesford Road

- A well presented three bedroom semi detached home
- Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, bathroom
- Three Bedrooms and Rear Garden
- Gas central heating and double glazing
- SORRY NO DHSS NO PETS

£550 pcm

HEATH HAYES
Mill Crescent

- Well presented two bedroom terraced home
- Entrance Hall, Kitchen, Living Room, Conservatory
- Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Rear Garden
- Benefiting from gas central heating and double glazing
- Off Road Parking
- SORRY NO DHSS/ PETS

£525 pcm

CANNOCK
Manor Avenue

- A two bedroom ground floor apartment
- Living Room, Fitted Kitchen, Two Bedrooms
- Bathroom and Off Road Parking
- Benefiting from gas central heating and UPVC double glazing
- SORRY NO DHSS.

£475 pcm

HEATH HAYES
Acorn Close

- Two Bedroom Semi Detached Property in a Popular Residential Area
- Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms and family bathroom
- Central Heating and Double Glazing
- The Property has Allocated Parking
- SORRY NO DHSS

£500 pcm

HEDNESFORD
Raden Court

- 2 Bed First Floor Apartment
- Open Plan Living Room Kitchen
- Mezzanine Floor
- Bathroom
- Shared Garden
- Secure Off Road Parking
- Sorry No DHSS

£475 pcm

CANNOCK
Knights Court

- A two bedroom terraced home
- Living Room, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom
- Benefitng from gas central heating and double glazing
- Garden and Off Road Parking
- SORRY NO DHSS

£475 pcm

HEATH HAYES
Hednesford Road

- A three bedroom terraced family home
- In brief the property comprises of: Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen
- Bathroom, and Three Bedrooms
- SORRY NO DHSS
- Benefiting from gas central heating

£470 pcm

HEDNESFORD
Raden Court

- 2 Bed Apartment with Communal Garden
- Open Plan Lounge / Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- Off Road Parking
- Sorry No DHSS

£450 pcm

HEDNESFORD
Sandpiper Close

- 1 Bed First Floor Flat
- Off Road Parking
- Economy 7 Heating & Double Glazing
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Sorry No DHSS

£370 pcm

CHADSMOOR
Cannock Road

- A one bedroom flat
- Entrance Hall, Kitchen, Lounge, One Bedroom
- Shower Room and Off Road Parking.
- Double Glazing and Electric Heating

£325 pcm

HEATH HAYES
Hednesford Road

- One bedroom 1st floor flat
- Lounge, Kitchen, Shower room, One Bedroom
- Off Road Parking
- SORRY NO DHSS
- Electric heating and majority double glazing

£300 pcm

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Southgate, Cannock

Being sold with no upwards chain, an extended three bedroom semi detached home situated on a corner plot at the end of a cul-de-sac in this popular location. The property has the benefit of a driveway and integral garage and a low maintenance rear garden.

Price Guide £120,000

Long Lane, Great Wyrley

A well presented and spacious two bedroom end terraced house with useful loft space (access from bedroom 2). The property has been improved and modernised to include a re-fitted breakfast kitchen & bathroom and a large rear garden. An ideal first time buy. No Upward Chain.

Price Guide £120,000

Chetwynd Park, Hednesford

A spacious family home with a woodland view to the front. Entrance porch, reception hall, guest cloakroom, sitting room, dining room, family room, conservatory and dining kitchen. Five bedrooms, two with en suite facilities and family bathroom.

Price Guide £319,950

Raydon Court, Cannock

A two bedroom ground floor apartment with no upward chain. Set back off a private gated entrance The accommodation briefly comprises of communal entrance, entrance porch, entrance hall, open plan lounge kitchen diner, two bedrooms, bathroom and allocated parking.

P.O.A

Albert Road, Cannock

A two bedroom traditional semi-detached cottage (double fronted) Two reception rooms, kitchen, conservatory and store/utility area. Upstairs there are two good sized bedrooms and refitted bathroom.

Price Guide £105,950

Station Road, Hednesford

Three bed mid terraced house situated on Station road, Hednesford. Lounge, Dining room, Re-fitted kitchen, Utility, Cellar, Three bedrooms, Bathroom, Garden at rear and parking. The property also benefits from double glazing and central heating where specified.

Price Guide £137,000

St Francis Close, Hednesford

A four bed detached house situated on St Francis Close, Hednesford. Entrance hall, lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, utility room, four bedrooms and family bathroom. The property also benefits from double glazing and central heating, enclosed rear garden, off road parking and garage.

Price Guide £199,950

Field Street, Cannock

A two bedroom Semi-Detached house situated on Field Street, Cannock. The accommodation briefly comprises Lounge, Dining room, Kitchen, Two bedrooms and family bathroom. The property also benefits from double glazing throughout.

Price Guide £105,950

Elm Road, Cannock

A three bedroom end terraced house situated on Elm Road, Norton Canes. The accommodation briefly comprises two reception rooms, kitchen and family bathroom. The property also benefits from off road parking, double glazed and central heating (both where specified).

Price Guide £120,000

St George Drive, Hednesford

A spacious family home which offers, sitting room, dining room, good size conservatory, breakfast kitchen, music/family room, utility store. Four bedrooms, the master having re-fitted en suite facilities and a family bathroom. Outside are gardens to front, rear drive and garage.

Offers Over £200,000

Raven Close, Hednesford

A three bedroom Semi-Detached house on Raven Close. The property is situated on a good sized corner plot. The accommodation briefly comprises lounge, dining room, conservatory, kitchen and three bedrooms. The property offers No Upward Chain.

Price Guide £139,950

Southbourne, Cannock

A one bedroom semi detached bungalow in need of modernisation. The accommodation briefly comprises of lounge, kitchen, bedroom and wet room. It is located in a popular residential location and must be viewed to avoid a missed opportunity. The property also offers NO UPWARD CHAIN.

Price Guide £64,950

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MOTORING NEWS AND REVIEWS

CHRONICLE MOTORING

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Your essential guide to the world of motoring compiled by Motoring Editor Sharon Walters

Improved airflow benefits Auris

LOOK underneath the new Toyota Auris and you'll discover shallow fins on several of the body panels. Hardly something an owner is likely ever to see, but they're there for a purpose.

They help smooth the airflow beneath the car, and that makes it easier to push through the air. Which saves precious petrol and makes the car less expensive to run.

It shows an impressive attention to detail and augurs well for a car that arrives in a part of the market already rich in quality, with names like Golf and Focus to contend with.

Toyota knows the Auris will battle it out in exalted company, where a merely sensible car is no longer good enough. Toyota spent decades building those, but now think a new model "should bring a smile to the face of an owner".

If Toyota succeeds there are going to be a whole lot of smiling Europeans; the plant near Derby will soon be turning out a Euro Auris every 66 seconds. Which ought to make the Toyota accountants smile, at the very least.

By Ian Donaldson

Sales of 15,000 cars are anticipated across Europe next year, helped by a estate joining the current five-door hatch in July. There is the usual Toyota choice of petrol and diesel engines and a petrol/electric hybrid, the latter expected to take four in every 10 sales.

Prices in the UK start at £14,495 for an Active version and top out with the posh and well equipped Auris Excel Hybrid at £21,745. As well as being cheaper in some versions than before, this new Auris is lower, sleeker and more economical.

Improving

But simply improving on what went before is not good enough these days, with some of the best cars for the real world available around the same price.

A stand out car has got to "be a car for the heart". Those are Toyota's words and first impressions, while hardly setting the old ticker racing, are favourable. There's a new found elegance and carefully chiselled look about the newcomer, with a bold new face that will become the look of Toyotas of the future.

Inside, especially on the top Excel model tested here, there's real attempt at adding class, with smartly stitched leather on the dash and an emphasis on quality that stretches to ensuring everything you can read, from dashboard to audio controls on the steering wheel uses the same typeface. Attention to detail, again.

Changes to the suspension across the range are aimed at softening the ride without compromising cornering power, while moving the heavy Hybrid's battery to beneath the rear seats means extra room in the boot.

It helps push the car's weight closer to the road, as does lowering the roof line and dropping the seats; good for road holding but less good for the creaky hipped buyers that you might expect to take an important slice of Auris ownership.

Owners of all ages won't complain at a car that managed 50mpg on a series of Portuguese motorways (sometimes, ahem, at rather more than the UK speed limit) and demanding hill roads. Yes, a good diesel (the Auris offers a diesel but there wasn't one to try) would do as well, or better, but would not drive the same. The hybrid Auris produces a combined 134bhp from its petrol and electric power sources, enough for 112mph flat out and a 10.9 second dash to 62mph. There's no road tax to pay and it makes a tax efficient company car. Toyota expects to sell five million petrol/electric cars worldwide in 2013 and plans to introduce 21 new hybrids in coming years. That shows a confidence that the low cost of ownership (less to wear out) and favourable road tax (none in the UK and no London congestion charge either) will make a clinching argument for these dual-fuel cars.

A petrol only Auris tried later was a more enthusiastic drive.

Shallow fins beneath the body panels are designed to ease the airflow, which makes for a more economic drive

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Record figures for Footman James Classic Car Show in Birmingham

A RECORD number of nearly 60,000 people attended the Footman James Classic Motor Show, at the NEC in Birmingham.

Hundreds of classic cars, vans and motorcycles filled the exhibition halls, most in showroom condition and others needing just a little work or a complete restoration, with a huge area of table top sales for old, unwanted and sought after used parts.

Show manager Andy Rouse said: "We are totally blown away by the number of visitors for this year, exceeding all our expectations and reflecting the growth and strength of the classic car movement. The feedback from clubs, traders and visitors has been simply fantastic."

Enthusiasts

The inaugural Silverstone Auction totalled sales of over £1.1m with over 60per cent converted to new owners and enthusiasts.

Two Fiat 500s with a guide price of £8,000 actually made £15,000 each and an Aston Martin DB4 reached £224,000. Local exhibitors included Jaguar parts specialists SNG Barrett of Bridgnorth who had the Union Jack covered Jaguar XK8 from the movie Austin Powers on their stand.Marketing manager Jessica Ralph commented: "We are launching our brand new XK8 parts catalogue at the show, so we thought having this iconic car on display would add a little fun and it has certainly attracted a lot of attention."

Shelsley Walsh Hill Climb club members with a classic Austin Cooper

Jessica Ralph of SNG Barratt of Bridgnorth with the Austin Powers XK8

Midland Automobile Club, organisers of Shelsley Walsh Hill Climb, had a large stand displaying the wide variety of cars that regularly compete on the hill, alongside club members who provided information to visitors about the history of the club and forthcoming events for next year.

Visitors being given short 'Dream Rides' in a wide range of cars from a classic Bristol saloon to the latest Lamborghini raised over £30,000 for charity.

Celebrity visitors to the show included Sir Stirling Moss, TT riders Mick Grant and Guy Martin, Steve Coogan, Chris Barrie, Theo Paphitis, and television presenters Quentin Wilson and Tiff Needell.

The next release of Subaru Foresters will be larger and more practical inside, the company says

More treats in store for fans of Subaru's SUV

Subaru has confirmed a new version of the Forester SUV for next year, with a choice of three engines and two gearboxes.

The new Forester is set to be faster and more efficient but will keep the Symmetrical All-Wheel-Drive system that gives Subaru cars their fabled traction.

It is claimed that the cabin will be larger and more practical, but how so has not yet been revealed. The three Boxer engines will be positioned low in the chassis to give the Forester a lower centre of gravity.

Two 2.0-litre engines with 148bhp will form the backbone of the range – a diesel and a petrol.

The flagship is a new 2.0-litre 276bhp turbocharged petrol unit, maintaining Subaru's proud heritage of building fast four-wheel-drive cars.

The 148bhp engines will be offered with a six-speed manual gearbox, while the petrol version has the option of a Lineartronic continuously variable transmission (CVT).

The CVT box is the only choice on the higher-powered petrol, partly to meet Japanese fuel economy standards.

Haydn Davies, marketing director, Subaru UK, says: "Since the Forester's launch in 1997, it has gained a loyal following across the UK for its rugged, go anywhere abilities and these developments will ensure it remains a firm SUV favourite."

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CALLS CHARGED AT LOCAL RATE

The real thing – Toyota's GT86 which fell foul of the ASA when two people complained

When fantasy and reality collide – advert is banned

A RECENT ruling from the Advertising Standards Association (ASA) has highlighted that some people appear to have difficulty separating real life from fiction, writes Iain Dooley.

This has resulted in a slap on the wrist for Toyota and a don't do it again-style missive for its entertaining GT86 television ad.

You know, the one with the cartoon-like man enthusiastically driving a not-quite-real GT86 through a CGI-heavy landscape en route to freedom from his mundane (artificial) life.

Well tough, because you won't be seeing that on the telly anymore. Why?

Because two people complained that the ad promoted irresponsible driving. Worse still, the ASA then sent out the 'cease and desist' notice.

Two people? Is this all it takes to shut something down? Although this is a deeply concerning aspect of so-called people power, what's equally troubling is that some consumers appear unable to make the distinction between reality and fantasy.

Sequence

According to the report, particular attention was drawn to a sequence where the car is driven through a window, no doubt to illustrate in a symbolic and dramatic way the character breaking free from his dull life.

Apparently this might tempt people in the real world to do the same.

Taking the complaint to its logical conclusion, do people break out the quill and Basildon Bond every time they see a video driving game advertised on TV? I have no issue with such products, but the various action sequences are little different to the car ad in question, so why haven't these been banned for the same reason?

Maybe the very same people flash their lights at every Volvo and xenon headlight-equipped car in the mistaken belief they're being blinded by inappropriate main beam use.

However, if it's really this easy to get something banned, I'm going to round up a few friends to moan about the legion of cheesy home-related bleach, disinfectant and stain removal ads that dominate my viewing. How can anyone's kitchen be that clean? Wait, you say, I need a proper reason? That'll never catch on.

Exhilarating performance from luxury limo fit for a rock star

THERE was a choice to make before embarking on a 400-mile trip to Scotland.

Fly up with a budget airline with £5 cups of coffee, legroom fit for a five-footer and meagre luggage allowances.

Or, drive up the M6 in Audi's flagship, which comes with all the trappings of a luxurious limo and is more akin to a private jet.

A car for rock stars and top executives, it is ferociously quick, but remarkably economical for such a big engine. Even the business user won't have to pay top whack benefit in kind, with CO2 emissions of 195g/km putting it in the 33 per cent tax bracked.

Guess which one won. This flagship is a superb car, but your bank balance will need a health warning to buy and run it. The big limo is much better than its predecessors, with LED trimmed bi-xenon headlights framing the stylish front end and sitting on enormous spoke-styled 19-inch alloy wheels.

The interior is immaculate with, wood panelling, stitched leather upholstery and heated, leather seats..

The button ignition launches a huge laptop-style screen out of the wood dash trim, which houses the clever Multi-Media Interface (MMI) system.

The central dial that controls this system is found between the automatic gear control and the central arm rest – and it's the real brain of the car.

It controls the sat-nav system that keeps you up to date with traffic and accidents ahead and gives you a clear list of upcoming manoeuvres and direction pointers on the central dash screen.

The MMI also controls the DAB radio, bluetooth phone connectivity, rear reversing camera screen and even a jukebox with a digitally stored library of albums.

The specification on the rest of the interior on the Executive SE trim model is far too long to list in full, but includes cruise control, a premium Bose surround sound system, parking sensors and calming white strips of roof lighting that illuminates the cabin at night.

There is also a decent boot that opens via the key fob on hydraulic arms that gently lift the boot up on its own.

The safety specification is as superb as all the other gadgets inside and there is the usual array of airbags, ABS, ESP, alarm and imobiliser to keep it safe.

My personal favourite is the radar-controlled cruise-control and lane assist that does most of the motorway driving for you. The performance of the 4.2-litre V8 engine is probably the most incredible feature on the A8.

In sport mode it will catapult you to 60mph in just 5.5 seconds. Exhilarating performance, but I spent nearly every minute in the smooth and sedate economy mode, which helps to push up the range.

My diesel had a range of more than 600 miles on the dash and a 90-litre tank, but did considerably more when driven carefully. The only thing difficult to swallow is the list of extra costs.

The base price of the SE Executive is £67,680, but by the time the extras were added on it took the price up nearly seven grand to £74,520.

Some of them I can understand, like the £600 for adaptive lights and high beam assist, but the Bose sound system will set you back £1,175 and the comfort black leather seats are another £1,380. A lot of car for a lot of money, but even without the extra toys the Audi A8 is a stunning car.

The Audi A8 starts at £67,680 – but the extra toys can knock the price up

Fast Facts

Model: A8 4.2 TDI quattro SE Executive tiptronic **Price:** £74,520
Mechanical: 4134cc, 350bhp, V8 diesel engine driving all wheels via 8-speed tiptronic automatic gearbox with DSP and sport programme
0-62: 5.5secs
Max speed: 155mph (limited)
Combined mpg: 37.2mpg
Insurance group: 47
CO2 emissions: 195g/km
BiK rating: 33% **Warranty:** 3yrs or 60,000m, 3yrs paint and 12yrs anti-rust

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Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO_2 emissions (g/km). Mokka Tech Line: Urban: 33.6 (8.4), Extra-urban: 52.3 (5.4), Combined: 43.5 (6.5). CO_2 emissions: 153g/km.

Model shown Mokka Tech Line 1.6i 16v VVT (115PS) FWD Start/Stop £15,995 with Adaptive Forward Lighting £790 and Tri-coat premium pearlescent paint £995. Total OTR cost £17,780. Offer available on orders or registrations from 2 October 2012 to 17 December 2012. Vauxhall Lifetime Warranty covers lifetime ownership of first registered keeper, 100,000 mile limit. Terms and conditions apply. Visit www.vauxhall.co.uk/warranty

Sebastian takes the FX to Infiniti and beyond

Join the jet set – with a price tag of more than £100k the Vettel is special

Souped-up SUV – the standard FX is powered by a 5.0 litre V8 engine

By John Griffiths

YOU could count on the fingers of one hand the number of people who've driven three-times world champion Sebastian Vettel's Red Bull Racing F1 car.

There won't be many, either, who get to drive Vettel's other wheels: the exclusive, high performance SUV he helped to bring to Britain's roads.

Just 150 of the Infiniti FX Vettel Editions will be produced, with only ten of them for the British market.

For your £100,800 you get one of the most exclusive (and expensive) SUVs in the world, which also happens to be among the quickest and most dynamic, too.

Three times a winner – Red Bull's Sebastian Vettel has put his stamp on this splendid SUV

The power of the standard FX's 5.0 litre V8 has been boosted, the suspension lowered and stiffened and the Vettel is considerably lighter, thanks to the use of F1 grade carbon fibre components.

As a result the Vettel's 0 to 62mph time is reduced to just 5.6 seconds and it wafts smoothly on to the limited top speed of 155mph on the autobahn where much of the prototype testing took place.

Such performance deserves to be described as sporty, yet this isn't a sports car: it's a consummate grand tourer. The Vettel is perfectly balanced and its suspension honed so that to its occupants it has the feel of a luxury saloon.

Performance

It's quiet, too, when you rely on low revs and the Vettel's massive torque for everyday performance. But feed in the revs and the redesigned exhaust's note changes from characteristic V8 burble to animal growl.

This duality came as something as a surprise, Most people who get behind the wheel of a car designed by a top racing driver for the first time expect something a bit more brutal: barely controllable power and a ride so stiff it rattles your teeth.

The Vettel, though, is an iron fist it a velvet glove. It seems that Vettel, after spending 90 minutes with his bottom millimetres from the floor on a almost solid seat, is a man who values comfort and luxury in his company car for the drive home.

It began as a classic 'back of an envelope' moment at the Geneva Motor Show two years ago when Vettel and Infiniti's design guru chatted about ideas for turning his company car at the time – an Infiniti FX50 S Premium – into the racing driver's dream machine.

It became a reality, with Vettel working closely on the redesign of the standard car and working as the prototype's test driver, providing the engineers with expert feedback.

The result is a car which is 20mm lower, and on stiffer springs, with carbon fibre side skirts, front under bumper section and rear diffuser to improve aerodynamics and handling. The same concept was applied to the alloy wheels – 21-inch diameter as with the standard car but significantly lighter.

At the front it also gets LED daytime running lights, while at the rear the fog light mimics the Formula One car's rain light. The front fog lights are the smallest fitted to a production car, but also some of the most powerful.

The interior is handcrafted, with luxury, hand-stitched Alcantara fabric and leather trim.

Driver and passenger get electrically adjustable, heated or cooled seats with 'easy entry' function behind the hi-tech fascia with its up to date range of air con, navigation, audio and driver aids: the list is so extensive there aren't any optional extras.

The driver has the choice or automatic seven speed gearbox or manual gearchanges with paddles behind the steering wheel. To be honest, with a car of this potential I find the manual option more useful in keeping speed under control (such as on long downhill stretches) rather than trying to increase acceleration.

And with the engine's power is up by 30Ps to 420Ps, torque up to 520Nm, and the lighter, more aerodynamic car you don't need an explanation of performance.

Cornering

Like the standard FX, the Vettel has a torque-sensing four wheel drive system but, particularly in this lowered version, it's there for on-road safety and cornering stability rather than off-roading.

This aspect of the Vettel's design philosophy is very evident in its sharper handling and flat, roll-free cornering in comparison to conventional, dual purpose SUVs: it has more in common with high performance saloons.

It's a true family car, too, with a family-sized boot with which to fulfil that grand tourer job description.

Official fuel consumption figures aren't yet available for the Vettel. The standard FX50's average is 21.6mpg: bearing in mind the Vettel is more powerful but also lighter and more aerodynamic so it's figures are likely to be similar.

But then, people who can afford to spend £100,800 on a performance, luxury car probably won't worry too much about a couple of miles per gallon either way.

Having a very capable car which is one of the world's most exclusive is probably worth a lot more.

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2003 53 MG TF 1.8 2-dr CONVERTIBLE Alloys, EW CL, just 42,000 miles £2,699
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2008 58 MINI ONE 1.6 D 2-dr CONVERTIBLE PDC, RAS, Alloys Bright Red £6,499
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2008 58 MICRA 1.2 SE 5-dr AC, EW alloys, 28,000 miles £3,499
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2008 08 QASHQAI 1.6 VISIA 5-dr Alloys EW CL, Just 41,000 miles £3,499
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2005 05 206 GTI 180 3-dr Alloys, CD, EW only 36,000 miles £3,699
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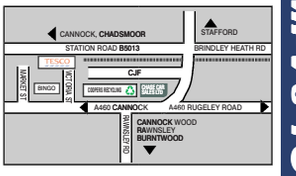

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When winter bites it's vital to keep vehicles in tip-top condition to avoid scenes like this

Check your vehicles to play safe in winter conditions

BAD weather has already caused chaos for many people with storms hitting much of the country over the past few weeks.

With this in mind, drivers in the West Midlands are being urged to make sure their car is in the best possible condition now so they are prepared should bad weather strike again.

Andrew Hockedy, brand manager at Wolverhampton Volkswagen, part of the Trust Group which has site in Stourbridge and Redditch, said: "Winter will be upon us before we know it which is why drivers should spend time now making sure their car is in the best possible condition.

"We are committed in protecting the safety of drivers all year round but recognise that this is even more important during the winter months when the clocks have gone back and when the weather can make for difficult driving conditions.

Cut the speed in reduced visibility

Peace

"This is why we have recently launched a Winter Check package whereby our trained Volkswagen technicians will give owner's cars a thorough check.

"Available until March 31, technicians will check all the essentials including tyres, lights and brakes, will top up oil and washer fluids to the correct levels and check the battery and alternator, giving drivers added peace of mind during the winter months."

The Winter Checks are currently priced at £25 and appointments can be booked directly with the service department. Customers also receive either a Safety Kit or Oil Check-it Kit.

Before winter starts, drivers should make sure all lights work and remember that severe weather puts more demands on wiper blades.

It's also important that windscreen washer is topped up, tyres are correctly inflated and have the legal amount of tread and the battery, brake pads, discs and fluid are up to scratch.

Hail, heavy snow and rain all reduce visibility so drivers should travel at a speed that allows them to stop in the distance they are able to see ahead.

Drivers should give themselves extra time on journeys.

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T Reg RENAULT CLIO 1.6 Auto. In Red £1499
P Reg HONDA CIVIC 1.6 Auto. PS, CL, EW, CD £999

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03 Reg PEUGEOT 307 1.6 ESTATE In Silver £3499

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10 Reg PEUGEOT 107 1.0 URBAN. In Red, PAS, C/L, E/W, CD £5999
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07 Reg VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.4 SXi Met Silver, PS, CL, EW, AC, alloys £5699
57 Reg ASTRA SRi 3-door. In Black, half leather, PAS, CL, EW, AC, alloys £5999
07 Reg PEUGEOT 107 5-dr. Silver, low tax & insurance, £20 a year road tax £4,199
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54 Reg NISSAN MICRA 1.2 Met Grey, 5-dr, PS, CL, EW, alloys, only £2499
54 Reg DAEWOO MATIZ 1.0 SE + Met Silver, 5-dr, PS, CL, EW, alloys £1599
53 Reg VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4 SRi 3-door. Metallic Silver, P/S, C/L, E/W, alloys £2499
52 Reg HYUNDAI AMICA 1.0 LTR 5-door, in Silver, Ideal First Car £1499
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02 Reg VAUXHALL CORSA SXi 5-dr. Black, alloys £2,399
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SPORTS & CONVERTIBLES
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52 Reg MG ZS in Metallic Red, PS, EW,alloys £1699

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10 Reg PEUGEOT 107 1.0 URBAN - In Red, PAS, C/L, E/W, CD £5999

51 Reg MINI COOPER In Black, White roof, Chilli pack, panoramic roof, P/S, C/L, E/W, alloys £3199

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10 New Astra 1.6 Exclusiv 5dr AUTO, A/C, cruise control, 19550 m, Black Sapphire **£8499**
10 New Astra 1.6 Exclusiv 5dr hatch, A/C, Cruise control, 8550 m, Sovereign Silver **£8999**
10 New Astra 1.6 SE 5dr hatch, 17" alloys, half leather, 31400 miles, Technical Grey **£8999**
60 New Astra 1.4 Exclusiv 5dr hatch, 17" alloys, Cruise control, 10300 m, Tech Grey **£9499**
10 New Astra 1.6 Elite 5dr hatch, Leather, Alloys, Bluetooth, 42900 miles, Silver **£9499**
11 New Astra 1.4 Exclusiv 5dr hatch, A/C, cruise control, 5000 miles, Silver Lake **£9499**
60 New Astra 1.4 Exclusiv 5dr hatch, Cruise control, A/C, 10300 miles, Carbon Flash **£9999**
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61 New Astra 2.0 CDTi SRi 5dr hatch, 18" alloys, A/C, 7500 miles, Olympic White **£13999**
12 New Astra 2.0 CDTi Elite 5dr hatch, Leather, Alloys, heated seats, 9900 m, Black **£14999**
11 New Astra 2.0 CDTi SRi 5dr, sat nav, Bluetooth + more, ex demo, 12300 m, silver **£15999**
61 New Astra 2.0 CDTi GTC, Bluetooth, Sat Nav, 19" alloys, 9000 miles, Black **£17999**
61 New Astra 2.0 CDTi GTC, Bluetooth, Sat Nav, 20" alloys, 11000 miles, Black **£21999**

CORSA

08 Corsa 1.2 Breeze 3dr, A/C, CD player, elec windows, 43400 miles, Flame Red **£4999**
57 Corsa 1.3 Diesel Club 5dr, A/C, Front & Rear parking sensors, silver, 36500 miles **£5999**
09 Corsa 1.0 Life 3dr, CD player, Central locking, 21600 miles, Air Blue **£5999**
59 Corsa 1.0 Active 3dr hatch, A/C, CD player, Elec mirrors, 20000 miles, Power Red **£6499**
10 Corsa 1.0 Energy 3dr hatch, Alloys, A/C, 16700 miles, Flame Red **£6999**
60 Corsa 1.0 Energy White, Alloys A/Con 17600 miles **£7499**
10 Corsa 1.2 Energy 5dr hatch, A/C, 15" alloys, 21600 miles, Oriental Blue **£7999**
60 Corsa 1.2 Energy 5dr hatch, Bluetooth, 15" alloys, 8600 miles, Waterworld **£7999**
11 Corsa 1.2 SXi 5dr hatch, 16" alloys, MP3 socket, 7500 miles, Star Silver **£7999**
09 Corsa 1.3 CDTi Design 5dr hatch, 16" alloys, A/C, 8500 miles, Silver Lightning **£8399**
12 Corsa 1.2 SXi 5dr hatch, 16" alloys, A/C, MP3 connection, 9400 miles, Silver Lake **£9499**
61 Corsa 1.2 SXi 5dr, 16" alloys, MP3 connection, 2800 miles, Silver Lake **£9499**
11 Corsa 1.4 SE 5dr AUTO, Auto lights/wipers, heated seats, 14600 m, Oriental Blue **£9999**
11 Corsa 1.2 Ltd Edition 3dr, Body kit, 18" alloys, 24100, Olympic White **£9999**
12 Corsa 1.4 SXi 5dr, Rear sensors, 16" alloys, A/C, 10400 miles, Technical Grey **£9999**

MERIVA

59 Meriva 1.6 Design 5dr hatch, double sunroof, Cruise control, 15500 m, Ultra Blue **£6999**
59 Meriva 1.6 Design 5dr hatch, double sunroof, Cruise control, 8200 miles, Lancelot **£6999**
10 Meriva 1.4 Active 5dr hatch, A/C, Elec windows, 15900 miles, Ex Demo, Black **£7499**
60 New Meriva 1.4 Turbo Exclusiv 5dr hatch, 17" alloys, A/C, 16500 m, Silver Lake **£8999**
60 New Meriva 1.4 Exclusiv 5dr hatch, 17" alloys, A/C, 15700 miles, Silver Lake **£9499**
11 New Meriva 1.4 Excite 5dr, Bluetooth, A/C, cruise control, 7600 miles, White **£9999**
60 New Meriva 1.3 CDTi Exclusiv, A/C, Cruise control, 5600 miles, Pepperdust **£10499**
11 New Meriva 1.7 CDTi AUTO Exclusiv, A/C, Parking sensors, 13000 miles, White **£11499**

ZAFIRA

59 Zafira 1.6 Life 5dr hatch, Tow bar, A/C, Elec windows, 18800 miles, Panacotta **£8499**
59 Zafira 1.8 Active+ 5dr hatch, Climate control, 16" alloys, 20300 miles, Star Silver **£8999**
61 Zafira 1.7 CDTi Exclusiv 5dr hatch, A/C, Elec windows, 3300 miles, Star Silver **£11499**
61 Zafira 1.7 CDTi Elite 5dr, 16" alloys, Leather, parking sensors, 4700 miles, Silver **£13499**

INSIGNIA

09 Insignia 2.0 CDTi Exclusiv 5dr, S/nav, Cruise control, 47900 miles, Technical Grey **£9499**
59 Insignia 2.0 CDTi Elite 5dr hatch, Leather, S/nav, 27200 m, Pomegranate Red **£10499**
59 Insignia 2.0 CDTi Exclusiv estate, parking sensors, S/nav, 39000 m, Metro Blue **£10499**
60 Insignia 2.0 CDTi Exclusiv 5dr, Bluetooth, Cruise control, 29100 miles, Tech Grey **£10499**
10 Insignia 2.0 CDTi Exclusiv 5dr, 18" alloys, Cruise control, 30800 miles, White **£10999**
61 Insignia 2.0 CDTi SRi 4dr saloon, 18" alloys, cruise control, 17300 miles, Black **£12499**
61 Insignia 2.0 CDTi SRi AUTO estate, S/nav, 18" alloys, 23900 m, Sovereign Silver **£13499**
10 Insignia 2.0 CDTi Elite 5dr hatch, Leather, S/nav, Blue/th, 13400 m,Waterworld **£13999**
61 Insignia 2.0 CDTi SRi 5dr, Blue/th, Alloys, Cruise control, 7800 miles, Silver Lake **£14999**
61 Insignia 2.0 CDTi SRi Sports Tourer, 18" alloys, leather, 11900 m, Carbon Flash **£15999**
12 Insignia 2.0 CDTi SRi Sports Tourer, S/nav, Bluetooth, 15800 m Sovereign Silver **£15999**
12 Insignia 2.0 CDTi SRi VX-Line, S/nav, Body kit, 20" alloys, 12700 miles, Power Red **£16499**
62 Insignia 2.0 SRi 160ps 5dr hatch, Sat Nav, Alloys, 3800 miles, Power Red **£16999**
11 Insignia 2.8 V6 Elite 5dr, 19" alloys, S/nav, leather, 14000 m, XDemo, Silver Lake **£19999**

CONVERTIBLES

08 Astra 1.8 Twintop Design, leather, 18" alloys, 33900 miles, Flame Red **£7499**

VXR

08 Corsa VXR 3dr, Silver Lightning, A/C, Alloys, 21800 miles **£9499**
59 Corsa 1.6 VXR 3dr, 18" alloys, Cruise control, A/C, 29800 miles, Silver Lightning **£10499**
12 Corsa 1.6 VXR 3dr, 18" alloys, AFL headlights, 9200 miles, Arden Blue **£14999**
09 VXR8 6.2 V8 4dr saloon, Alloys, body graphics, 15700 miles, Power Red **£18999**
10 Insignia 2.8 V6 estate, Sat Nav, Bluetooth, 20" alloys, 16600 miles, Black **£19999**

COMMERCIALS

57 VW Caddy 2.0 SDi 65ps, CD player, Sliding door, Bulkhead, 14300 miles, Black. **£5999+VAT**
56 Astra 1.7 Diesel Sporttive, Silver, roof bars, A/con ..... **£5999+VAT**
08 Astravan 1.7 CDTi Sportive, Tow bar, A/C, 50000 miles, Black Sapphire ..... **£6999+VAT**
60 Combo 1.7 CDTi, A/C, CD player, 13400 miles, Glacier White ..... **£7499+VAT**
09 Vivaro 2.0 Diesel 2900 LWB red Roof rack ,rear parking sensors 20120 miles ..... **£8499+VAT**

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Deaths

ALLMAN

Mary

Of Cannock.

Passed away peacefully at the Grange Nursing Home, Rawnsley, on December 10, aged 93 years. Reunited with Husband Les and beloved Mom of Jennifer, Janine, Trevor, Marie and Mandy, also a loving Nan, Great-Nan, Mother-in-law and Friend.

Service will be held at Stafford Crematorium, on Thursday, December 20, at 10.30am. Family flowers only, donations to the Grange Residents Fund c/o Funeral Directors.

The Funeral care has been entrusted to;

FARAGHER MAGUIRE

Family Funeral Directors

Brindley House

75 Broadhurst Green

Hednesford

Tel 01543 879866

BAILEY

Violet

Of Cannock.

Passed away peacefully in hospital,on December 9, 2012, aged 92 years.

Reunited with Husband Bill (Ginger) and beloved Mom of Norman, Maureen, Joan, Ray, Bert and Ken also a loving Nan of 5 generations, a loving Sister, Aunty and Friend.

Service will be held at Stafford Crematorium on Monday, December 17, at 3.30pm. Family flowers only donations to Dementia UK c/o Funeral Directors.

The Funeral Care has been entrusted to;

FARAGHER MAGUIRE

Family Funeral Directors

Brindley House

75 Broadhurst Green

Hednesford

Tel 01543 879866

DEAN

Marion May

nee Millward

Passed away on Wednesday, December 5, 2012, aged 91 years.

Funeral Service to take place on Wednesday, December 19, at 3pm at Bushbury Crematorium.

Family flowers only.

Donations if desired to the R.S.P.C.A.

DEAN

Marion May

We are thinking of you today Mom but still that isn't new, we though about you yesterday and the day before that too. We'll think about you tomorrow and the days that follow through, we'll think of you forever, until God calls us too.

Still deeply loved and sadly missed.

From Son Mick and Pam.

XXX

HARRISON

Alfred

(Alf)

Of Wimblebury, passed away on December 6, aged 85 years.

Funeral Service will take place at Stafford Crematorium, on Monday, December 17, at 10am. Family flowers only please, donations if desired to Cancer Research UK c/o

GEORGE STACEY
Funeral Services
30 Greenheath Road,
Hednesford
WS12 4AR.
Telephone 01543 422524.

HINKS

Brian Frank

Sadly passed away on December 3, 2012, with Janet by his side.

A much loved Husband, Father, Grandfather and Brother who will be sadly missed by all his Family and Friends.

His Funeral Service will take place on Monday, December 17, at 12 noon, at Stafford Crematorium.

Family flowers only please, donations would be appreciated for The Air Ambulance and Stroke Association c/o

A.J. Sellman
Family Funeral Directors
70 Church Street, Cannock,WS11 1DH
01543 502322

JOHNSON

Maureen Betsy

(N.N.E.B)

Passed away on December 6, 2012, aged 72 years.

The Funeral Service will take place at St Pauls Church, Rugeley, on Wednesday, December 19, 2012, at 10.45am, followed by the Burial at Wolseley Road Cemetery. Family flowers only please, any donations received will be given to the Macmillan Nurses, these can be forwarded c/o PHILLIP EMERY

Funeral Directors

Bedford House

15 Bow Street

Rugeley

WS15 2BT

01889 582274

JONES

Anne

Late of Norton Canes. Passed away peacefully in Katharine House Hospice on Thursday, December 6, 2012, aged 72 years.

Anne will be sadly missed by all her devoted Family and Friends.

The Funeral Service will take place at St James' Church, Norton Canes, at 2.45pm on Monday, December 17, 2012, followed by Burial in the Churchyard.

Family flowers only or donations, if desired, to Katharine House Hospice, c/o the Funeral Home.

Anne is now resting in our private Chapel of Repose at

HALLIWELL
FUNERAL SERVICE

70 Hednesford Road

Heath Hayes

WS12 3EA

01543 459200.

JONES

Owen George

Founder of Jones Home Brew, Cannock.

Passed away on December 9, 2012 aged 79 years.

He was the much loved Father of Karen and Mandy and is now reunited with Olive.

His Funeral Service will take place at Stafford Crematorium, on Monday, December 17, 2012, at 9am.

Family flowers only but donations would be appreciated for Ward 12 Stafford District Hospital and may be sent to

A.J. Sellman
Family Funeral Directors
70 Church Street, Cannock,WS11 1DH
01543 502322

LEONE

Rosa

Passed away peacefully December 7, 2012, aged 82.

Rosa will be very sadly missed by all her loving Family and Friends.

Requiem Mass to take place 9.30am, on Friday, December 21, 2012, at St. Joseph's Church, Rugeley, followed by Burial at Stile Cop Cemetery.

Floral tributes accepted c/o

CO-OPERATIVE

FUNERALCARE

17, Brereton Road,

Rugeley.

Telephone 01889 582315.

MURPHY

Anne

Of Cannock.

Passed away suddenly surrounded by Family in hospital on December 2, 2012, aged 54 years.

Beloved Partner of Cliff and devoted Mom of Lee, Joanne, Michelle, Matthew and Ryan, also a loving Nan, Sister, Aunty, Mother-in-law and Friend.

Requiem Mass will be held at St Marys Roman Catholic Church, Cannock, on Thursday, December 20, at 12.30pm, followed by Interment at Stile Cop Cemetery.

Family flowers only, donations to Cancer Research UK c/o Funeral Directors.

Fortified by the rites of the Holy Church

The Funeral care has been entrusted to

FARAGHER MAGUIRE

Family Funeral Directors

Brindley House

75 Broadhurst Green

Hednesford

Tel 01543 879866.

POOLEY

Keith Andrew

Retired Dental Surgeon.

Passed away suddenly, December 1, 2012, aged 67 years. To be received into St Joseph's Church, Burntwood, at 5pm, Monday, December 17. A Funeral Mass will be held at St Joseph's, Tuesday, December 18, followed by a Cremation at Streetly, 12.45pm.

Family flowers only by request, donations for the continuing work of St Joseph's Church will be accepted by Funeral Directors

JOHN SHORT & SON
3 High Street
Chasetown
Burntwood
WS7 3XE
Telephone 01543 686204.

Keith will be greatly missed by Family and many Friends.

XXX

TAYLOR

Nancy Emily

Formerly Wright

nee Winfer

Sadly passed away in Brisbane, Australia, December 3, 2012, aged 91 years.

A much loved Mom, Nan and Great-Grandma.

Those we love don't go away, they walk beside us every day.

Memories are a keepsake to which we hold the key to unlock when the need arises our own special memories.

Goodnight, God bless Mom, miss you loads.

Everloving Daughter Carole and Roger, Grandson's Brendon, Adrian and Families.

XXX

WHITEHOUSE

William Fred

(Bill)

Passed away quietly and with dignity in the loving care of the Staff at Hawksyard Priory, Armitage, on December 3.

Will be very sadly missed by all his loving Family and Friends.

Funeral Service has taken place c/o

CO-OPERATIVE

FUNERALSERVICE

17, Brereton Road,

Rugeley.

01889 582315.

In Memoriam

BAILEY

Jesse

Five years December 15.

Out of our lives you may have gone, but in our hearts you still live on.

Beautiful memories, treasured forever, of the happy times we all spent together.

Your loving Wife Barbara, Children Karen, Keith, Kim, Jess and extended Family.

GOOCH

George

Beloved Husband, Dad, Grandad and Great-Grandad.

16.12.2010

Close in our hearts you will always stay, much loved and remembered every day.

Loving Wife Alice and Family.

XXX

HUGHES

Audrey

Nothing has changed sweetheart, you're still the only girl in the world.
I shall love you forever.
My gentle Aud.
Trev.
XXX

Mom

Every day I miss you, I shall love you always.
L.F.M.
Mark.
XXX

MEEK

Ced

One year 17.12.2012

A much loved Son, I say your name in the wind, to blow to a star, to greet you and shine on you wherever you are.

Love you always.

Mum

XXX

MEEK

Cedric

Is it a year, it's gone so quick but you are never far from our thoughts.

We also like to thank you for your Son, he is definately a chip off the old block.

Rest in peace Brov.

Acknowledgements

ROSKELL

Phyllis Mary

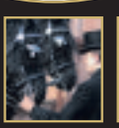
The Family would like to express our sincere thanks for cards, flowers, sympathy and support in the sad loss of our Mother.

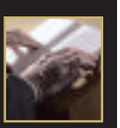
Grateful thanks to A.J. Sellman, Reverend Siddens and Friends of St. Stephens Day Centre.

Many thanks for the generous donations and to everyone who attended Mom's Funeral to say a last farewell.

Funeral Directors

HALLIWELL FUNERAL SERVICE
HEATH HAYES & GREAT WYRLEY





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Please note there will be no publication, Thursday, December 27, 2012.

The deadline for Thursday, January 3, is Friday,

December 28, at 12 noon.

Please call 01902 317878 for any further information.

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Please note that the deadline for our weekly Cannock Chronicle is 11.30am every Tuesday for the same weeks edition.

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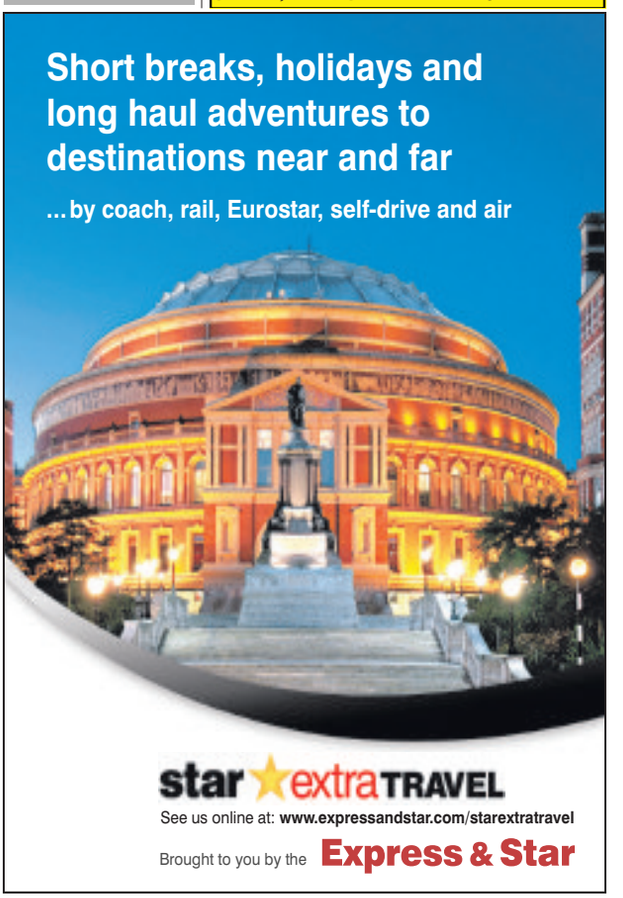

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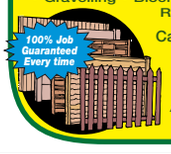

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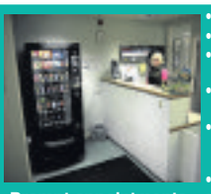

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SPORT

Saddlers sore as pressure mounts

WALSALL boss Dean Smith has admitted "the pressure is always there" after a 5-1 thrashing at Coventry marked the club's 15th successive game without a win.

The boss came under fire from fans following Saturday's Ricoh Arena defeat, which left the Saddlers just three points above the drop zone. They are 19th in League One ahead of key pre-Christmas home clashes with Yeovil and Colchester.

But Smith, who guided the Saddlers to safety in the last two seasons, insists he can handle the heat.

"There's pressure on every game you play. You want to go out and get a win for your supporters, players and families," he said.

"The pressure is always there, whether you're on a good run, bad run or an indifferent one.

"The fans were fantastic on Saturday, they came in their droves, supported us, were singing and were taunting the Coventry fans.

"I can understand their frustrations because they can see the goals we conceded as well.

"We've got two home games to come now and we have got make sure we get a win quickly in one of those."

The Saddlers have been put out of the FA Cup by Lincoln and the Johnstone's Paint Trophy by Port Vale.

Indoor bowls results, tables

Briggs Equipment Indoor Bowls League

Division 1: D Hayward & V Gray1 8 ; N Newey & L Hazlehurst 21; D & G Storer 21; K Handley & D Chester 1 6 ; R Bennett & C Pugh 16 C Marshman & B Preece 21; S Edwards & D Murray 18; A & G Parsons 21; C Marshman & B Preece 7; K Handley & D Chester 21; L Cavill & M Bardsley 9 M Evans & L Pritchatt 21.

	P	W	L	Ag	Pt
Evans & Pritchatt	6	6	0	56	12
Storer & Storer	7	5	2	35	10
Handley & Chester	8	5	3	11	10
Edwards & Murray	6	4	2	41	8
Parsons & Parsons	8	4	4	-3	8
Marshman & Preece	8	3	5	-13	6
Cavill & Bardsley	7	3	4	-22	6
Newey & Hazlehurst	7	3	4	-31	6
Hayward & Gray	7	2	5	-18	4
Bennett & Pugh	8	1	7	-56	2

Division 2: A Preece & F Statham 21; L Simonczyk & T Platz7; S & C Baird 21; R Worthington & P Lines 12; R Worthington & P Lines 12; A Preece & F Statham 21; M & P Colbourne 21; G Garbett & B Taylor 15; C Everitt & S Edwards 9; J Hollis & S Powis 21; A Allcock & O Evans 12; T Partridge & B Stacey 21.

	P	W	L	Ag	Pt
Hollis & Powis	7	7	0	54	14
Preece & Statham	8	6	2	55	12
Partridge & Stacey	7	5	2	35	10
Simonczyk & Platz	7	5	2	28	10
C'bourne & C'bourne	7	5	2	12	10
Baird & Baird	6	3	3	-3	6
Everitt & Edwards	8	3	5	-27	6
Worthington & Lines	8	2	6	-45	4
Garbett & Taylor	7	0	7	-45	0
Allcock & Evans	7	0	7	-64	0

Eight point gap is opened up at the top

Cannock 5 West Bridgford 1

CANNOCK seconds opened up an eight-point gap at the top of the Ener-G Midlands Premier for second teams in beating defending champions West Bridgford.

They played well in patches but created few clear-cut chances.

West Bridgford looked dangerous on the counter. Cannock were grateful to keeper Paul Parker and birthday boy George Myatt as they came out on top with Paul Harris, 'Dippa' Sandhar, Josh Gunnell (2) and Stuart Gooderham goals.

Stourport 1 Cannock 3

Cannock thirds kept their two-point lead at the top of the Ener-G Midlands Premier for third teams after goals by Ed Martin, Reece Jeckett and James Hudson.

Cannock 2 West Bridgford 3

The fourths lost a top of the table clash against second-placed West Bridgford after playing some of their best passing hockey of the season in the first 10 minutes.

They fell behind to a goal against the run of play before Alex Hill equalised with a penalty stroke.

West Bridgford went 3-1 up with clinical finishing and Cannock pushed more into attack.

They got their second through Dan Bosi but their last chance to save their undefeated record and top spot came with a last-gasp penalty corner. Execution was lacking and a first defeat ensued.

Cannock Hockey Club

Cannock 8 Stafford 0

Despite having no substitutes, Cannock sixths piled up the goals against Stafford fourths.

Cannock hit six first half goals, including a Gurpal Mann hat-trick and Cameron Beswick, Luke Davis and Raff Moscatiello singles.

Karl Owen added two more in the second half from short corners as Cannock went into the break with a 100 per cent record.

Burton 6 Cannock Futures 3

Cannock went down to an experienced Burton side, but kept second place in the table.

Although Burton fielded some junior players most of the 12-man squad were adults.

Cannock drew first blood as Gareth Terrett drove into the D and smashed past the keeper.

Within a minute Burton equalised and on 18 minutes they led. Cannock levelled as Jordan Joiner's drive towards goal deflected in off a Burton player.

They regained the lead as Alex Kingston's ball into the D saw Jordan Joiner challenge the keeper. The ball fell to Jamie Greenwood who slotted it in.

Burton equalised with about 30 seconds to go and their experience told in the second half as three goals sealed the win. But Cannock heads never dropped.

The start of the second half meant there was still all to play for but the experience in the Burton side began to be the difference.

They were able to build a three goal cushion within the first 20 minutes.

Cannock captain Rob Davies and his young squad can still be very proud of what they have achieved.

Change in fortunes continues with loss

Stourbridge Lions 32 Burntwood 10

THE about-turn in Burntwood's fortunes continued with a fourth successive defeat in this Midlands Three West (North) match.

Ian Jones' side were in contention until half-time but blown away in the second period – albeit against the current Midlands Senior Vase holders who are into the last four in defence of the trophy.

A Lloyd Shelley burst-straight from the home kick-off was a fleeting venture into home territory and, after 11 minutes, Stourbridge moved for a neat offload and created an opening score.

Burntwood conceded another penalty on 22 minutes which was kicked successfully before Luke Rookyard, Jack Neal and Hal Gozukucuk linked to earn a penalty but Aza Dune't missed.

Just before half-time Neal won possession and fed Gozukucuk who went round the narrow side, beat the last defender and touched down. Dune't's conversion went in off the post.

Penalty

It took Stourbridge two minutes of the second half to feed the left-winger to beat the last tackle.

A penalty by Dune't kept Burntwood in it, but on 50 minutes the Lions kicked a penalty to the left corner.

The catch and drive involved 13 home players and led to a try in the corner.

With an hour gone, from a line-out, the hosts moved the ball well down the backs to score a converted try behind the posts.

Burntwood rang the changes but the pattern of play was unaltered.

With time nearly up, Stourbridge's 13-man catch and drive was held up on the first attempt but the second was successful. A conversion completed the scoring.

The visitors' best attack of the half into injury time saw the chance of a consolation try ended as Matt Sishton's burst came to nothing due to lack of support.

Burntwood host table-toppers Newcastle (Staffs) on Saturday (2.15 pm).

The seconds travel to play Burton B and the Development Squad are away to Aldridge seconds.

Burntwood's Staffs Intermediate Cup tie, also at Newcastle, has been arranged for Saturday, December 29.

Ex-Scholar learns how to handle the pressure

CANNOCK'S Dave Egan has slimmed down to light-welterweight as his confidence soars that he can handle the pressure of being a professional boxer.

by Craig Birch

But the semi-professional footballer admitted he hung up his boots for a second time at Chasetown because he feared getting injured before a fight. The 29-year-old hopes to retain a welterweight's dig in the lighter division and feels he is getting to grips with the pro ranks.

"Hopefully, my power will make a difference," he said.

"I just want to be in exciting fights, the people of Cannock will start to get a bit bored otherwise!

"I want to get everybody talking and then I can move up a level, as well.

"The main thing for me is the transition from amateur to pro. As an amateur you get your punches in and jump miles out of the way but you have to stand your ground as a pro.

Blocking

"It's only in the last six weeks or so that I have felt comfortable taking shots and blocking.

"I will let my opponent hit me so it opens him up for a counter-punch.

"I have had some unbelievable wars in the gym sparring, they all think I am nuts!"

Egan's last game for Chasetown was at home to Belper on October 20.

He played five games this season, scoring at Leek, but has an open ticket to return for another spell.

The ex-Scholars captain insists he still loves football but cannot afford to take risks with his boxing future.

He said: "I had to call it a day, if you get a little kick or a tight groin from football it meant nights off boxing training, in this game you can't afford to do that if you have got a fight date.

"If there was no chance of me getting injured, I would one million per cent still play football, it's additional fitness for me, if nothing else. I really want to do well in boxing, so I had to make a choice."

Egan was due to fight this Sunday at the HMV Institute in Birmingham – the old Digbeth Civic Hall – but the show has been called off.

Hometown fighter Max Maxell accepted a shot at the English light-middleweight title against Erick Ochieng at the weekend – he lost – and left the main event in doubt.

Egan has already been handed his next assignment.

He will be on the undercard of the BoxNation televised show at Walsall Town Hall on January 18.

There's lovely! How Bluebirds became friends

Cardiff fans display the Friendship through Football banner and national flag during their trip to Chasetown

FRIENDSHIP through football lives on with the seemingly unlikely partnership of Chasetown and Cardiff City.

Five years ago, the Scholars' Mark Branch scored a 40-yard free-kick at Port Vale to earn Chasetown a replay and, eventually, an FA Cup third round tie with Cardiff City, ***writes Paul Mullins.***

Chasetown won that replay 1-0 through Danny Smith and faced Dave Jones' Cardiff City on January 5, 2008. That day was the birth of a strong friendship between the clubs.

The South Wales outfit – FA Cup finalists that year – invited Chasetown to play the first official friendly at the new Cardiff City Stadium.

Since then, Bluebirds fans have made regular trips to the Scholars ground and groups of Chasetown fans have travelled to Cardiff to watch games as guests of their hosts.

Fifteen Cardiff City fans from the Supporters Club and Trust made the latest of many trips for the recent game between Chasetown and Stamford in Evo-Stik Division One South.

Stamford went ahead within a minute, but Chasetown won 3-1, roared on by a semblance of a Welsh choir in the Church End belting out "We love you Chasetown, we do" and – perhaps aptly after Cardiff's recent kit colour change – "Blue Army, Blue Army".

Before the game, Chasetown Supporters Club organised a buffet for the visiting supporters (including those from Stamford) and presented each Cardiff fan with a memento of their visit – a silver hip flask.

The guests were invited onto the field at half-time and presented with a blue and white flag adorned with the words Friendship Through Football.

Trust chair Tim Hartley said: "We were overwhelmed by the welcome."

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Rampant Wyrley back with a bang

Junior football

Wyrley Wanderers U11 13
Tipton Youth Hawks U11 3

WYRLEY, out of action for two weeks due to the weather, were quickly into their stride as they returned with a huge win over Tipton.

Ben Colgrove notched two early goals, Jack O'Neil added a third from the penalty spot and Ryan Craddock's fine run and shot made it four.

Colgrove got his third, running on and smashing home a shot from distance after collecting an overhead clearance from Craddock.

Billy Ford scored two fine headers from corners while O'Neil and Craddock scored again before the break.

Tipton netted just before half-time and quickly added two more, but Colgrove grabbed his fourth and fifth before Joe Coates and Brandon Bethel rounded off the scoring.

Rugeley Rangers Lions U9 2
Castle Vale JKS U9 1

Third division Lions took a first division cup scalp in a game of end-to-end attacking play.

Vale took a deserved lead but Rugeley, with Callum Corrigan excellent in defence and midfield, equalised with a fine solo effort from Billy Mackenzie.

An excellent strike from Jake Poole settled the game although there was still time for a good header by Will Burns to bring a fine save from the Vale keeper.

Berkswich U15 4
Heath Hayes U15 0

Heath Hayes were second best as their Lichfield League Cup hopes came to an end. Two down at half-time, they made more of a fight of it after the break.

Connor Ryan had Hayes' best chance, while the hosts were reduced to 10 men. But a freak own goal, when the keeper failed to connect with a back-pass, left Hayes deflated, and Berkswich ran out 4-0 winners.

St Joseph's H'ford U11 Girls 0
Norton Canes U11 Girls 0

An excellent match in freezing conditions finished goalless, largely due to fine displays by the two goalkeepers. St Joseph's player of the match was Francesca Reynolds.

■ KN Football Development at Burntwood are recruiting players for under-six, seven, eight and nine teams. Sessions will be aimed at boys and girls. For details, call 07966 687626.

Five-goal United claim bragging rights

Premier League

OLD FOES Brereton Town and Rugeley United came face to face for the 25th fixture of this local derby.

With both languishing in mid-table, record nine-times champions Brereton Town not winning the title since 1992 and Rugeley United, formed in 2004, winning it just twice, nothing was at stake but pride. A Stuart Tapper hat-trick and a goal each for Neil Hill and Matty Ainger gave the points to Rugeley United as they won 5-1 to stay fourth.

Yates Sports won their first game of the season and lifted themselves up three places with a 4-0 win over St Matthews.

Tom Green scored twice and there were single strikes from Ryan Wilkins and Jack Langston.

Division Two Cup round one

The Ascot came from behind to knock out Mary Rose 5-4.

Chris McGuinness, Paul Jones and a hat-trick from Joe Owen won the game.

Doubles from Lee Boswell and Luke Taylor helped Hawkins Inex knock out Victoria 5-3 with John Cornfield getting the other goal.

A Dan Lomas hat-trick won the game for CK Academy against Cheslyn Hay Athletic 3-0.

Division Three Cup round one

A Paul Clayton goal with six minutes to go won the game for Crystal Fountain against Rugeley Rangers 1-0.

The Railway came from one down to knock out Lea Hall United 3-2.

Ilhami Tadik, Jimmy Loveridge and Andy Highman scored the goals for Railway.

Cannock & Rugeley knocked out the league leaders TNT 4-1. Ryan Pounder, Bobby Smith, Harry Bassett and Chris Collins were the scorers.

Royal Exchange put out the Lamb & Flag 5-2. Ryan Chapman bagged two and Dwayne Battison went one better with a hat-trick.

Division Four Cup round one

Cannock Social knocked out Woody's 4-2 with a goal each for Dan Phillips, Dan Groves, Mike Julian and James Massey.

Adam Green's hat-trick put Hazel Slade on the way to knocking out Hope and Anchor 6-4. Luke Woodward, Gavin Longdon and Scott Holland added one each.

Division Five

Leaders Jubilee go six points clear after beating Ath Bridge 4-3 with a last minute winner from sub Nathan Blower.

Duncan Winnaw two and Shaz Nadatt kept putting the Jube in front.

Second placed Bridgtown Social beat Prairie Farm 7-1 with four goals for Lee Llewellyn and one each for Mick Hodgkiss, Nick Harvey and Andy Harvey.

Cannock Chase League

Sam's the man as he helps Dark Blues win

PENKRIDGE player Sam Egerton starred in Oxford University's third straight win over Cambridge in the 131st annual Varsity match.

Egerton, aged 20, was named man of the match after scoring one of three second-half tries as Oxford overcame a 16-6 half-time deficit to win 26-19 before about 25,000 at Twickenham.

Egerton's first moment of glory came in the 51st minute as his try was the catalyst for a memorable fightback. He also helped create Charlie Marr's decisive try later on.

It was the second time the former Adams Grammar School pupil, who plays his club rugby for Newport, has taken part in the historic fixture but the second-year law student, who grew up in Penkridge, said this year's Twickenham experience topped last year's success due to the drama of the match.

"We were trailing by quite a way and Cambridge scored first in the second half as well so we were looking at a heavy defeat," he said.

Thrilling

"But we pulled together and turned it around. This probably just about tops last year.

"Three wins on the bounce is quite a big achievement and the way we did it this year also added to it."

It was a thrilling fightback by the Dark Blues who looked down and out when they trailed 19-6 early in the second period.

But three second-half tries in six minutes, from full-back Egerton, flanker James Harries and substitute Marr left Cambridge crestfallen. Marr added one conversion and a 78th-minute penalty to seal the deal, while centre Cassian Bramham-Law booted two first-half penalties.

Wing Andy Murdoch scored Cambridge's solitary try. Full-back Rob Stephen kicked four penalties and a conversion.

■ Lichfield suffered a galling 19-17 Midlands One West home defeat to Worcester Wanderers after the visitors scored twice in the dying minutes.

Lichfield's Greg Massey landed a 35-metre penalty and Ollie Winter scored a converted try for a 10-0 half-time lead.

Table-topping Worcester responded with an unconvertred try out wide.

Massey then scored a sensational try, rounding two players before chipping the full-back, collecting the ball and accelerating away to beat the covering defender.

He converted to make it 17-5 with five minutes left.

Then Worcester scored two converted tries to win.

Rugby Union

Victorious Oxford captain John Carter, left, and Sam Egerton display the trophy after Egerton crosses for a try

Cannock results, fixtures

Cannock Chase results

Premier: Brereton 1 Rugeley Utd 5; Yates Spts 4 St Matthews 0.
Division 1: Chase Spartans 1 Premier Suite 6.
Division 2: Colliers Arms 0 Broomhill Albion 12; Victoria Ath 2 Harrisons 3.
Division 3: Hawkins Spts 2 Freemans 3.
Division 4: AFC Essington 2 Bell & Bottle 2; AFC Fern 0 Brinsford 9; Wyrley Juniors 2 Castle 4.
Division 5: Jubilee 4 Athletico Bridge 3; Prairie Farm 1 Bridgtown Social 7.
Division 1 Cup Group B: Bar Spts 1 Nelson Inn 0.
Cannock Charity Cup Round 2: Hen House 0 Yew Tree Rovers 2.
Cannock Chase Cup Round 3: AFC Piper 2 Cheslyn Hay 3.
Division 2 League Cup Round 1: Cheslyn Hay Ath 0 C K Academy 3; Mary Rose 4 The Ascot 5; Victoria 3 Hawkins Inex 5.
Division 3 League Cup Round 1: AFC Railway 3 Lea Hall Utd 2; Cannock & Rugeley 4 TNT 1; Royal Exchange 5 Lamb & Flag 2.

Cannock Chase League

Cannock Chase Cup Round 2: Red White & Blue v Crystal Fountain.
Cannock Charity Cup Round 1: Cannock & Rugeley v Colliers Arms.
Round 2: Athletico Bridge v TNT; Rugeley Rgrs v Green Heath.
Premier: Ridware Oak v Brereton; Rugeley Utd v Magic Lantern; St Matthews v Yates Sports.
Division 1: Bar Sports v Nelson Inn; Chase Spartans v Cheslyn Hay.
Division One League Cup Group A: AFC Jubilee v Premier Suite; The Littleton v Short Heath Poets.
Division 2: Bridge v Hawkins Inex; Cheslyn Hay Athletic v The Ascot; Mary Rose v Victoria.
Division 3: Lamb & Flag v AFC Railway; Lea Hall Utd v Freemans; Royal Exchange v AFC Winding Wheel; Yew Tree Rovers v Trafalgar.
Division 4: AFC Essington v Castle; Brinsford v Cannock Social; Hazel Slade v Woody's; Wyrley Juniors v Bell & Bottle.
Division 5: Bridgtown Social v The Cow; Hen House v Jubilee; Nags Head v AFC Piper; White Hart Rgrs v Prairie Farm.

Dragons roar after slow start

Colron Rangers U10 2
Burntwood Dragons U10 4

DRAGONS started slowly in this cup tie and found themselves behind early on.

But they soon rallied with Jack Castro slotting home and Alfie-Allan Smith putting the visitors ahead at half-time.

Colron equalised but Burntwood, bolstered by solid defensive displays from Charlie Turner and Will Benton, kicked on to win with a second goal for Smith and one from Alex Tisdell.

Cannock Town Juniors U13 2
Burntwood Dragons Reds U13 4

The Reds, with only 10 fit players, had to work hard for their win.

They led 3-0 at the break with goals from Patrick Owen, Joel Turner and Arron Beale.

Cannock Town pulled back two goals as the visitors began to tire, but Owen's second goal – a fine strike – secured the points.

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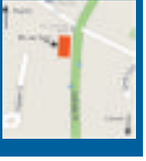

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Super-fit Hayes win with late goals

Heath Hayes 3
Bridgnorth Town 2

TWO goals in the last 10 minutes earned Heath Hayes three much-needed Midland Alliance points.

The extra training sessions undertaken by the home side certainly bore fruit as their superior fitness appeared to be the difference between the two sides on a heavy, energy-sapping pitch.

They should have taken the lead on nine minutes when Craig Hancox brilliantly set up Tom Green in front of an open goal.

However, the striker, who did not enjoy the best of games, scuffed his shot and the ball was cleared.

After 28 minutes Dave Waple latched onto a Green flick but was clumsily brought down by Simon Gregory and Waple despatched the penalty.

Bridgnorth were playing some neat football but Ben Maddox in the home goal was rarely troubled until Town equalised with a stunning goal on 40 minutes.

Flank

Full-back Kevin Buxton went on a surging run and played the ball to striker Jon Price, who turned his man brilliantly and fed a return ball to Buxton, who drilled a low shot into the side of the net.

On 55 minutes, Waple went close to restoring the home side's lead when he beat four defenders only to screw his shot wide.

Town went ahead on 62 minutes when Josh Bradbury turned the ball home following a move down the right flank.

Hayes brought on Dominic Coulson on the right wing and his pace began to trouble the visitors' defence.

The home side were well on top and forced a series of corners.

The Bridgnorth goal was leading a charmed life as Hayes desperately tried to find the equaliser.

It came from another set peice and with the ball bouncing around before Adam Wood finally forced it over the line.

With five minutes remaining, Hayes deservedly went in front.

Waple, who worked tirelessly throughout, was pulled back by Jason Pike when through on goal.

Hancox sublimely placed the resulting free-kick into the top corner of the net from 25 yards to send the home supporters delirious.

■ Hayes' Midland Alliance match at Coleshill on Tuesday was postponed.

Castle impregnable as errors reign

Newcastle 4 Chasetown 0

CHASETOWN'S four-match winning run came to an end with a bump, with a 4-0 reverse at their Staffordshire rivals, ***writes Paul Mullins.***

Individual errors were at the heart of most of Newcastle's goals in the Evo-Stik Division One South fixture.

They took the lead in the fourth minute. Full-back Cliff Moyo exposed the Chasetown left flank and was in acres of space as goalkeeper Ryan Price raced out from his goal to meet him. Moyo managed to get the ball beyond Price but was blocked by Mark Branch, before the loose ball ran to Neville Thompson, who steered the ball into an unguarded net.

Both sides hit the bar within a minute midway through the half – Gary Hay going close for Chasetown.

The Scholars were the width of the frame of the goal away from a quick equaliser at the start of the second half with Steve Hodgson well beaten by Andy Westwood's shot which came back off the post.

Newcastle increased their advantage in the 69th minute however. Greg Downes conceded possession on the right and Paul Whalley broke quickly sliding the ball across to the far post where Thompson added his second from close range.

Six minutes later it was all over. Bate gave the ball away this time and a slide-rule pass put through Thompson to complete his hat-trick with a neat finish.

Castle substitute Leon Ashman, who had replaced hat-trick hero Thompson, rounded off the scoring.

Newcastle Town: Hodgson, Moyo, Wint, Ruddock, Carter, Lowe, Diskin (Harrison, 75), Whalley, Thompson (Ashman, 84), Clayton, France (Nicholls, 65). **Subs not used:** Askey, Bayley.

Chasetown: Price, Downes, Branch, Farmer, Bate, Teesdale (Slater, 38), Westwood, Saunders, Wellecomme (Smith, 78), Hay, Robinson (Brown, 67). **Subs not used:** Jackson, Ashton.

Gary Hay hit the crossbar

SPOT-KICK HELPS PITMEN MOVE UP

HEDNESFORD TOWN have moved to within a single point of the Evo-Stik Northern Premier League summit.

But they face a big task to overhaul leaders North Ferriby United this weekend.

The Pitmen's home win over FC United of Manchester on Saturday was a big step forward in their title ambitions.

And Rushall Olympic did them a big favour by coming back from two goals down to claim a point at North Ferriby.

On Saturday, North Ferriby are at mid-table Buxton while Hednesford make the trip to 19th-placed Frickley.

That might indicate that the Pitmen face the easier task – but the standings mask the truth.

Frickley's Westfield Lane ground is something of a fortress, with the home side winning five and drawing two of their nine league matches there this season.

Only their dismal away form – is keeping Athletic in the lower reaches.

Hednesford Town 1
FC United of Manchester 0

Elliott Durrell's 66th-minute penalty, his fifth successful spot-kick in four games, took the Pitmen to a vital victory.

An attendance of nearly 1,000 created a bubbling atmosphere within Keys Park, but it was a calm head in the form of Durrell who stepped up to score.

The penalty came after Lee Neville fouled Sean O'Connor in the area.

Hednesford boss Rob Smith reserved special praise for diminutive midfielder Durrell. He knocked in his 17th goal of the season after a long wait to take the kick following lengthy treatment to O'Connor.

"You've got to take your hat off to Elliott," declared Smith. "It was a pressure penalty just like last week. "

In a relatively even first half, amid a vociferous atmosphere, both teams struggled to get a foothold.

Mike Norton latched onto Durrell's ball towards his own keeper and it needed swift reactions of Dan Crane to prevent Jerome Wright finishing on 17 minutes.

Hednesford left-back Darren Campion set up Aaron Rey, who shot wide.

The game turned when Neville was adjudged to be climbing over O'Connor. Durrell stepped up to score despite suffering considerable goading from United keeper James Spencer.

Hednesford Town

Evo-Stik North League Premier Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
North Ferriby	21	13	5	3	44	24	44
HEDNESFORD	19	13	4	2	37	24	43
Marine	21	11	5	5	41	28	38
Witton Albion	20	11	3	6	40	20	36
Ashton Utd	19	10	4	5	43	32	34
Nantwich Tn	21	9	6	6	39	36	33
Worksop Tn	18	9	3	6	43	27	30
FC Utd Man'	18	8	5	5	30	25	29
Chorley	21	8	3	10	31	30	27
AFC Fylde	14	7	5	2	36	21	26
Buxton	17	7	5	5	31	28	26
Rushall O	16	7	4	5	20	20	25
Blyth S'tans	18	7	4	7	33	37	25
Stafford R'grs	19	5	9	5	26	28	24
Ilkeston	20	6	5	9	25	26	23
Grantham Tn	22	5	5	12	29	39	20
Matlock Tn	16	6	2	10	24	35	20
Whitby Tn	18	5	2	11	25	34	17
Frickley Ath	18	5	2	11	22	38	17
Kendal Tn	15	3	6	6	25	34	15
Stocksbridge	23	3	5	15	36	53	14
Eastwood Tn	20	3	2	15	18	54	11

Hednesford's Aaron Rey is denied by keeper James Spencer from FC United of Manchester. *Picture: Colin Rogers*

Stars fly in to join Easter parade

WOLVERHAMPTON Speedway will launch their home Elite League campaign on Easter Tuesday, April 2.

The Parrys International Wolves face traditional Easter opponents Belle Vue and expect to be riding in Manchester on Good Friday.

The club's practice session, which is open to the public, has been confirmed for Tuesday, March 26 from 6pm – just three days after the New Zealand Grand Prix.

Freddie Lindgren and Tai Woffinden, who is expected to agree a new deal with the club soon, land at Heathrow that lunchtime and will then head straight to Monmore.

Club owner Chris Van Straaten said: "We're delighted to host Freddie's testimonial on March 10, but then we close down for a couple of weeks before starting our season properly after the New Zealand Grand Prix.

"It's hectic for the Grand Prix boys to get back for practice, but it's important for the full team to get together before we go straight into Elite League action."

Meanwhile, new Birmingham signing Chris Harris is the latest speedway big name for Lindgren's testimonial line-up.

Harris will take part in the 'Fast Freddie Challenge' at Wolverhampton on Sunday, March 10 (5pm).

He joins triple world champion Nicki Pedersen, Andreas Jonsson, Niels-Kristian Iversen and Peter Karlsson in a line-up which seems certain to pull in a bumper crowd.

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